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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

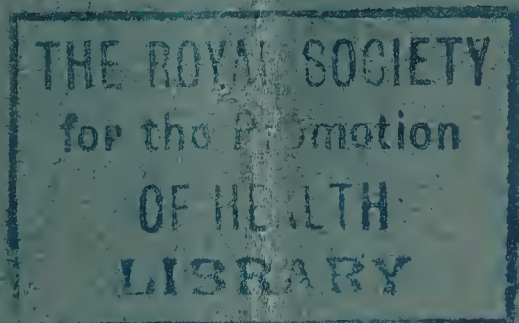
1958

BY

**JAMES A. DURANTE, O.B.E., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).**

Medical Officer of Health,

**with which is included the Report of the City
Pathologist-Analyst.**



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The Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant Superintendent of Markets :

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† L. ORTEGA.

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0Certificate in General Hygiene of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

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L.R.F.P.S. (Glasg.).

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J. C. CASSAGLIA, Esq., L.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.C.S. (Edin.),
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Mrs. M. BANDA (Local Registered Nurse).

Visiting Dentists :

*A. A. DANINO, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*J. J. COCHRANE, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*Allowance paid to private practitioners as a retaining fee for their services.

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

Chairman:

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The Chief Assistant Secretary, Colonial Secretariat.

The Assistant Director of Medical Services.

The Chief Medical Officer, Colonial Government.

The Medical Officer of Health.

The Royal Naval Representative.

The Royal Air Force Representative.

The Port Medical Officer.

Secretary:

J. L. Pitaluga, Esq.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors
of the City of Gibraltar.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1958.

Though widespread outbreaks of Whooping-Cough and Chicken Pox amongst children have marred what would otherwise have been an outstandingly low incidence of the common infectious diseases, the City has been free from grave infections of the major epidemic diseases, and the general health of the community may be said to have remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The outstanding features in the vital statistics are a considerable decrease in the death and infantile mortality rates and a small increase in the birth rate compared with the preceding year.

One hundred and ninety-six persons died from all causes which represents a death rate of 8.14 per thousand fixed civil population and constitutes the lowest death rate recorded since 1947.

One hundred and eighteen deaths amounting to approximately 60 per cent of all deaths concerned persons over 65 years of age and were caused principally by diseases of the heart and circulation, cancer and degenerative conditions incidental to ageing.

There was no significant change in the number of deaths caused by cancer and other malignant tumours which continued to provide the second highest cause of mortality. The respiratory organs and stomach again showed the highest incidence.

A small increase occurred in the number of births which outnumbered deaths by one hundred and eighty-seven.

It is gratifying to record a sharp fall in the infant mortality rate compared with the preceding year, but it is significant that the majority of the infants concerned died within one week of birth. These deaths together with still births have been the main cause of the loss of early infant lives in the past decade, and indicate that though diseases such as

gastro-enteritis and other infective and nutritional conditions, which up to recent times were responsible for the deaths of young infants in many countries and still continue so in certain backward communities with low standards of living and hygiene, are being controlled, there remain unknown factors which affect the mother and influence adversely the development of the infant and circumstances during labour and birth. Investigations are being undertaken in the United Kingdom and other countries where infant mortality presents similar features to ours to elucidate the causes of these deaths.

There has been an increase in the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which caused two deaths. The increase is small but it indicates that though the mortality from this disease and to a lesser extent the incidence, as represented by the decrease in notifications, has been declining during the last decade under the progressive improvements in general social conditions and housing accommodation, and mainly by the great strides made in treatment by the introduction of antibiotics and modern surgical measures, constant vigilance is required if a revival of the days when it constituted one of the principal causes of chronic illness, invalidism and death in the younger and middle decades of life is to be avoided.

There is evidence which suggests that the sources of infection now lie mainly in the younger middle-aged subjects with early unrecognized affections and in elderly people with old standing dormant lesions which have become active and highly infectious and which may remain undetected providing a serious danger of infection directly or indirectly to others. The disease often masquerades as chronic bronchitis or other pulmonary affections in the aged, and these conditions require careful investigation to exclude the possibility of its presence, particularly, when as is so often the case, young children and adolescents live in close contact with the person concerned.

The outbreak of Whooping Cough reported in my Annual Report for 1957 assumed epidemic proportions and persisted throughout the year under review. Infants and young children were principally affected, but fortunately the disease was generally mild and caused no deaths.

Because Whooping Cough presents itself as a common cold and is highly infectious in the early stages before its true nature is evident, its control by the recognized routine measures applied to other infectious diseases is virtually impossible. Vaccines are now being produced which provide

considerable protection or at least mitigate the severity of the attack, and as they are being progressively improved, it is envisaged that these vaccines will in time constitute the most practical and effective means of preventing the spread of the disease.

I cannot but again express grave concern at the insignificant number of children who are being immunized against Diphtheria. The fact that the incidence of the disease has been outstandingly low during the past decade affords no grounds for complacency in the light of the increasingly large, unprotected child population which is developing and which may at any time provide fertile ground for a serious outbreak to occur. The overcrowded living conditions still prevalent in our City would inevitably favour the spread of the infection and render the control of such an outbreak extremely difficult. It must be appreciated that it is too late to resort to preventive vaccination after a child has been exposed to infection as immunity takes a considerable time to develop.

The Maternity, Child Welfare and School Medical Services are the responsibility of the Colonial Government. The report from the Medical Department which is included in the text of this report is with the exception of the School Service purely factual and conveys no information as to the general state of health of the infant population. It is however satisfactory to note that out of 1,313 school children who were medically examined, 1,299 were classified as in good general health, 14 in fair, and that the standard of cleanliness proved outstandingly high.

It is encouraging to note the progress made in the Colonial Government Housing Scheme during the year under review. The relief of overcrowding still presents the most difficult and frustrating problem facing the community generally and those actively concerned with its abatement in particular, and though the position cannot yet be viewed with unqualified optimism, it undoubtedly holds out hopeful prospects for the future.

To conclude, the vista of Public Health has widened far beyond the conceptions of the original pioneers who established the "sanitary idea" and who were instrumental in securing its recognition by governments as a matter of vast national importance which led to the scientific investigation into the causes of sickness, deaths, and decrepitude and eventually to the enactment of legislation and the organisation of ser-

vices designed to eliminate such conditions. Its scope is no longer limited to environmental sanitation and prevention of plagues and infectious diseases, but includes all physical, moral and spiritual influences which affect the physical and mental health and the well being of man, in fact, nothing human is outside its horizon. The volume and velocity of travel with consequent progressively increasing intercommunication and intimacy in relationship between peoples has assumed fantastic proportions undreamt of in those days, indeed, it may without gross exaggeration be said that half humanity today lives on floats, wheels and wings, and under such circumstances influences whether beneficial or otherwise which previously only affected isolated communities now reflect on peoples thousands of miles apart. It is clear that under these developments the maintenance and promotion of health and prevention of disease can no longer be limited to a chosen few who act as guardians of health and devote their lives and energies to the attainment of these aims, but is the concern of every single member of every community, and that it is only by the willing co-operation of all men of goodwill in all nations that the seeds sown during the past century and cultured and fomented by generations of devoted men and women, labourers in this field, can be expected to render the fruitful results envisaged. Hence the creation of the World Health Organization with its concepts, ideals and aspirations for the welfare of humanity. I would therefore avail myself of the opportunity provided by this my tenth annual report to express my appreciation to many who have by their encouragement and co-operation and even by criticism (not invariably constructive but always useful) helped me and the officers of my department in our efforts to fulfil during the last decade the mission entrusted to us and to remind others who perhaps unwittingly have been rather lukewarm to consider that in the prevention of disease and promotion of health what affects one pertains to all, and request them to contribute even a "widow's mite" towards the common weal.

There have been no changes in the staff of the Public Health Department in 1958. It is however a pleasure to record that Mr. J. Reyes, one of the Markets Inspectors who under the Council's Training Scheme had completed a period of training in the United Kingdom, succeeded in obtaining the Royal Society of Health Diploma in Public Health Inspection for General Overseas Appointments, and joined the Public Health Inspectorate. Two students are also at present attending courses at the Royal Technical College, Salford for the same purpose.

It but remains to me to express my gratitude to the members of the Council for their courtesy and support, to the members of my staff for their loyalty and unfailing help, and to my colleagues in other departments for their valuable co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. DURANTE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

City Hall,

Gibraltar.

.....

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1958

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar	25,637 persons
Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar	24,077 persons
*Births in Fixed Civil Population,	
Males — 204	} 383
Females — 179	
Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ...	15.90
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	15.75
*Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	196
Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ...	8.14
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	8.26
Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil Population	18.27
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.08

* Vide Note on Page 14.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1958

The following weather summary and tables have been kindly supplied by the Air Ministry's Meteorologist in Gibraltar.

The total rainfall of 20.07 inches is considerably below the 12 year North Front average of 29.50 inches, and the year would easily have been the driest on record if it had not been for the first three weeks in December. The totals for June and February were the lowest for these months since 1947 and those for June and December the highest for these months over the same period. For the second consecutive year the daily average sunshine of 7.62 hours fell below the North Front average of 7.83 hours. Dull weather in the first two months was followed by a sunny and above average summer but the last quarter of the year was sadly deficient in sunshine. The overall average temperature of 64.7°F is less than one degree below the mean. Average daily maximum temperatures were 1.7°F less than the mean, and the average night minimum temperatures 0.3°F above the mean. The only relatively warm months were February and May while the period June to the end of November was relatively cool. June in particular was very cool. The overall average humidity of 74 per cent is slightly below normal. There was again a slight excess of westerly over easterly winds (55% to 45%). March and December were almost free of Levanter conditions whereas from July to November the easterly was continuously in the ascendant. The only strong gale occurred in December but winds of force six or over were frequent in February.

January. A month of no outstanding features. It was fairly dry apart from a spell of heavy levant accompanied by a period of steady rain from late 27th to early 29th. Less than two inches of rain was recorded altogether, a figure well below the average fall. Overall temperature approximated very closely to the mean although the first two weeks were slightly warmer than the second half. Sunshine figures averaged five and a half hours per day.

February. A dull dry month with excessive cloud amounts which reduced the recorded hours of bright sunshine to the lowest figure since 1948 and the rainfall catch to the lowest since 1945. Only .35 of an inch was recorded through-

out the whole month, the majority of which fell in the early morning of the 11th and the late morning of the 25th. Conditions improved considerably from the 22nd onwards. Average temperature for the month was 58°F. It was a month of fairly strong winds.

March. Dry and sunny noticeable for an almost complete absence of levant. A total rainfall of 2¼ inches was no more than half of that expected but sunshine was abundant with an average of 7.8 hours a day. The days were warm and the nights cool, and the maximum temperature of 78°F on the 15th has only twice been exceeded in March for the past twenty years.

April. Cold, dry and rather windy. Extensive and persistent sea fog occurred during the period 28th-30th. Thunderstorms were reported but were not accompanied by appreciable rain the sum total of which amounted to less than half an inch. This was but a fraction of the April average and negligible compared with the 7¼ inches recorded a year previously. Sunshine averaged eight hours a day. No day was devoid of some sunshine and a continuous six day spell of fine weather occurred from the 14th-19th. Rather surprisingly however the month was distinctly cold, and all temperatures were lower than the previous month.

May. Dry and pleasant but generally featureless. The total rainfall was again well below average and practically confined to the afternoon of the 11th and night of the 12th/13th. Average daily sunshine amounted to almost ten hours. No extreme temperatures were reported, the highest being 84°F on the 6th.

June. Cool and dull conditions which cannot be attributed to excessive levant. There was an unsettled period about mid month with frequent thunderstorms on the 17th and 18th during which almost the whole of the month's rain fell. This amounted to just under an inch. An average daily sunshine of under ten hours marks the month as the dulllest June for the past ten years. Temperatures generally were 2°—3°F below normal and the maximum of 82°F is poor for the month.

July. Completely dry and not too hot. Ideal sunny conditions for the first three weeks, followed by depressing humid atmosphere and persistent levant cloud. Temperatures were on the whole welcomely below average as only

once did the thermometer register 90°F. The minimum of 60°F recorded both on the 5th and 17th are the lowest July temperatures for the past twenty years.

August. A relatively cool and bright month which should not be judged by figures. Rainfall was negligible and the average daily sunshine of 9.3 hours was over an hour less than the mean of 10.6 hours. Long days of unbroken sunshine were few due to unexpectedly high cloud amounts but August is a month when the easterly can be expected twice as often as the westerly. This year they almost counterbalanced and the atmosphere remained unusually bright. Sea temperatures around the beaches were disappointingly low. Highest temperature recorded was 92°F on the 11th.

September. Was rather featureless and disappointingly lacking in rain. On only one day (4th) was a measurable amount recorded (.03 in.). Easterly winds persisted almost unbroken from the 7th to the 22nd. The average temperature of 73°F was below the normal but sea temperatures were correspondingly above average and swimming from the beaches regained its popularity. Sunshine proved adequate with an average of over eight and a half hours a day and the only prolonged dull spell was from the 8th to the 11th. Highest temperature recorded 88°F on the 22nd.

October. A month given over to levant conditions after a fine spell in the first week. The cloud canopy persisted over the Town area in irritating fashion since bright sunshine was observed much more frequently at the southern and northern extremities of Europa and North Front. Only 7/10 of an inch of rain fell and available stocks of water in the reservoirs were still further reduced. Average temperature was 67°F with a maximum of 85°F on the 17th.

November. A month of marked contrasts. The first two weeks were bright, warm and sunny, the remainder a period of levant with excessive cloud, rather cool and a constant threat of rain which practically never materialised. Less than two inches was recorded in the whole month compared with an average hope of 6½ inches. On more than one occasion conditions were considerably damper in town than at the airfield where the official rain gauge is kept. About one hundred and fifty hours of sunshine were altogether recorded. An easterly gale occurred on the 2nd with the wind reaching forty knots in gusts.

December. A dull wet month featured by a severe storm on the night of the 21st/22nd. Measurable amounts of rain fell on twenty out of the first twenty-one days and the final monthly total of 11.11 inches was two and a half times the average expectation. The heaviest fall was recorded on the 16th when at one time an inch of rain fell in 1 hour, 40 minutes. Sunshine figures were low, the average daily figure of 3.5 hours being practically an hour a day less than expected. Temperatures averaged 58°F with the highest of 66°F occurring on the 4th and 28th, nothing more than the general average despite the abundance of rain and lack of sun. Westerly winds predominated and culminated in the stormy weekend of the 21st/22nd when a moderate easterly veered sharply around midnight and increased to a strong gale averaging 45/50 knots and frequent gusts of 65-70 knots. The gale lasted nearly eight hours.

Summary. A very dry year, with a mild winter and rather cool summer relieved by an absence of prolonged levant conditions.

STATION GIBRALTAR (North Front).

Lat. 36° 09' N. Long 05° 21' W.

Barometer Height 24 Ft.

Raingauge 8 Ft. Above M.S.L.

YEAR 1958 Month	Mean Pres- sure at MSL	TEMPERATURE OF											RELATIVE HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (OKTAS)					
		MEANS					HIGHEST		LOWEST													
		Dry		Bulb		Max. A	Min. B	Mean of A & B	Max	Date	Min	Date	Min on gras	Date	03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21
		0300	0900	1500	2100																	
January	1020'4	52'7	53'1	58'9	55'5	59'5	50'5	55'0	67	7th	42	22nd	37	14th 22th 24th	81	81	69	79	3'2	4'5	4'8	21
February.....	1021'1	56'3	56'8	61'4	57'9	6'6	54'7	58'7	68	6th	42	27th	34	27th	82	82	69	79	4'4	5'6	5'1	4'1
March	1017'0	56'2	58'0	64'2	58'8	65'7	53'6	59'7	78	15th	61	27th	49	10th	81	72	56	75	3'3	4'8	4'1	3'5
April.....	1017'6	57'5	59'8	63'8	59'4	65'3	55'6	60'5	73	25th	45	13th 14th	40	13th 14th	80	72	61	76	3.5	4'2	4'7	3'1
May	1018'7	62'7	66'5	71'2	65'2	73'1	61'2	67'1	84	6th	55	26th 28th	48	31st	77	66	57	72	3'2	3'7	3'6	2'7
June	1016'	65'4	68'5	73'4	67'5	75'3	63'6	69'5	82	6/28th	59	5th	48	5th	77	72	60	74	3'3	4'7	3'5	2'7
July	1016'8	67'5	70'9	76'2	71'2	78'4	65'2	71'8	90	20th	60	5th, 7th	56	5th 6/7th	80	73	61	75	1'3	2'2	0'7	0'9
August	1015'8	71'2	73'2	78'1	72'2	80'4	69'3	74.9	92	11th	65	20/22 23/24 26th	62	22nd 23rd	81	76	65	81	3'7	4'4	2'2	2'5
September ...	1017'3	69'2	72'0	76'9	72.4	78'1	67'7	72'9	88	22nd	65	26, 29th	57	21st 29th	83	77	66	76	3'2	4'3	2'5	2'8
October	1019'7	63'9	65'8	69'7	65'5	71'5	62'1	66'8	85	17th	56	9th	50	9th	80	74	65	79	2'9	4'1	7'0	1'9
November.....	1017.7	58'6	59'5	63'7	60'5	64'6	56'9	60'7	74	8th	51	12/19th 29th	40	29th	78	75	67	77	3'8	4'9	4'6	3'7
December	1015.1	56'9	57'2	60'3	57.7	61'7	54'7	58'2	66	4/28th	47	24th	38	24th	80	79	71	80	4'8	5'6	6'1	4'8
Year	1017'8	61'5	63'4	68'1	63'7	69'7	59'6	64'7	92	11 Aug.	42	22 Jan. 27 Feb.	34	27th Feb.	80	75	64	77	3'4	4'4	3'7	3'1

STATION GIBRALTAR (North Front).

Lat. 36°09' N. Long. 05° 21' W. Barometer Height 24 ft. Rain gauge 8 ft Above M.S.L.

YEAR 1958 Month	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
	Total mm	Max in 24 hrs. 09-09	Date	Daily Mean Hrs.	o/o of Pos- sible	No. of Days of								
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun- der	Over- cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Ground Frost
Jan	50.6	26.8	28th	5.55	55.7	9	0	0	1	4	3	0	0	0
Feb	8.9	4.3	10th	4.61	49.2	5	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0
Mar	56.9	24.6	24th	7.85	66.1	11	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	0
April	10.1	3.5	2nd	8.06	61.4	6	0	0	3	1	3	0	2	0
May	9.9	5.3	12th	9.81	69.4	3	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	0
June	22.6	14.6	18th	9.94	68.2	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
July	Trace	Trace	24th	11.48	79.9	—	0	0	0	0	17	0	7	0
Aug	0.8	0.4	14th	9.35	69.0	7	0	0	0	2	4	0	6	0
Sept	0.8	0.8	14th	8.60	69.2	1	0	0	0	1	8	0	7	0
Oct	18.1	15.4	30th	7.63	67.4	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0
Nov	49.6	13.4	25th	5.17	50.0	9	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0
Dec	281.6	61.6	13th	5.45	35.7	21	0	4	7	7	2	1	0	0
Year	509.9	61.6	13/12	7.63	61.8	79	0	4	21	25	55	1	26	0

WIND

Frequency at 0300, 0900, 1500 & 2100 G.M.T.

Force 1—3 = 1—10 Knots. Force 4—5 = 11—21 Knots. Force 6—7 = 33 Knots.

Force 8 = 34 Knots.

YEAR 1958 MONTHS	FORCE				DIRECTION								
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	—	18	50	56	—	1	3	35	9	—	8	57	11
February	—	52	38	20	2	—	5	42	10	—	5	35	13
March	—	11	65	48	—	—	1	16	5	1	16	69	16
April	—	8	68	43	1	2	3	39	8	—	6	48	13
May	—	5	53	65	1	—	1	39	11	1	11	56	4
June	—	1	69	49	1	—	2	34	8	—	11	58	6
July	—	—	42	79	3	—	3	45	19	1	15	34	4
August	—	2	37	78	7	—	4	47	14	—	8	42	2
September	—	1	22	91	6	—	3	50	10	1	13	37	—
October	—	16	39	63	6	—	7	54	15	2	6	27	7
November	—	7	44	66	3	1	5	49	9	3	3	35	12
December	3	19	57	45	—	—	—	20	7	3	13	66	15
Year	3	140	584	703	30	4	37	470	125	12	115	564	103

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics are based on the estimated civil population of Gibraltar as shown in the Police Registration Office. They do not include personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and unless otherwise stated, they do not relate to their families, or to non-resident aliens.

The civil population at the end of the year under review was constituted as follows:—

	Adults		Children		Totals
	Men	Women	... Male	Female	
Gibraltarians	...6,109	7,494	2,558	2,382=	18,543
Other British	...1,111	1,961	1,242	1,220=	5,534
Aliens	.....	661	876	12	11=
Totals	.....7,881	10,331	3,812	3,613=	25,637

Compared with the preceding year these figures represent an increase of 294 in the British Fixed Population (86 Gibraltarians and 208 Other British Subjects). There was a decrease of 60 in the number of Aliens resulting in a general increase of 234 in the Total Population.

The increase in the Gibraltarian population was due to an increase of 171 in the number of children (109 males and 62 females). Adults showed a decrease of 85 (49 males and 36 females).

The increase in the number of Other British Subjects was provided mainly by an increase in the women and children.

The alterations in population since 1930 are shown below:

How Estimated	British Subjects Fixed Population	Alien Subjects Floating Population	Total Population
Police Estimate end of 1930	15,526	922	16,448
Census April 1931	16,188	1,425	17,613
Police Estimate end of 1932	15,143	1,466	16,609
„ „ „ „ 1933	15,071	1,326	16,397
„ „ „ „ 1934	14,790	1,057	15,847
„ „ „ „ 1935	15,735	1,130	16,865
„ „ „ „ 1936	16,875	2,319	19,194
„ „ „ „ 1937	16,792	2,749	19,541
„ „ „ „ 1938	17,222	3,017	20,239
„ „ „ „ 1939	18,125	2,315	20,440
1940 to 1944 civil population evacuated during war years			
Police Estimate end of 1945	17,448	1,784	19,232
„ „ „ „ 1946	19,269	1,964	21,233
„ „ „ „ 1947	20,316	2,216	22,532
„ „ „ „ 1948	21,472	2,228	23,700
„ „ „ „ 1949	22,208	2,377	24,585
„ „ „ „ 1950	22,470	2,416	24,886
Census July 1951	19,739	1,361	21,100
Police Estimate end of 1952	22,176	2,297	24,473
„ „ „ „ 1953	22,629	2,107	24,736
„ „ „ „ 1954	23,044	1,877	24,921
„ „ „ „ 1955	23,091	1,738	24,829
„ „ „ „ 1956	23,443	1,621	25,064
„ „ „ „ 1957	23,783	1,620	25,403
„ „ „ „ 1958	24,077	1,560	25,637

*Deaths

One hundred and ninety-six deaths, ninety-eight males and ninety-eight females were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during the year amounting to 8.14 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1957 were 232 and 9.75 respectively. In addition sixteen deaths occurred amongst non-resident aliens providing a total of two hundred and twelve deaths or 8.26 per thousand total civil population.

These figures represent a decrease of thirty-six deaths in the British civil population compared with the preceding year and with the exception of 1947 constitute the lowest death rate recorded since the repatriation of the population in 1945.

*Vide Note on Page 14.

One hundred and eighteen or approximately 60 per cent of all deaths concerned persons over 65 years of age, and of these thirty-two females and four males were octogenarians.

The age group 55 and under 65 years provided thirty-eight deaths.

Thus one hundred and fifty-six or 79.5 per cent of the total number of deaths occurred in persons fifty-five years of age or older and were attributed principally to cardio-vascular diseases including those affecting the central nervous system and malignant neoplasms.

The principal causes of death were:—

Cardio vascular diseases	61	(77)
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	29	(43)
Malignant neoplasms	30	(33)
Diseases of the respiratory organs	16	(15)
(excluding neoplasms)		
Senility	10	(10)
Diabetes Mellitus	9	(17)
(Figures in brackets are for 1957)		

Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused two deaths both in elderly persons.

With the exception of diabetes which in the year under review ranked lowest in the principal causes of death, the pattern of distribution remained the same as in 1957.

Cardio-vascular affections (including vascular lesions of the central nervous system) were responsible for ninety deaths or 45.9 per cent of all deaths. As in 1957 diseases of the coronary arteries predominated. Only one death was recorded from these conditions in persons under 45 years of age.

Malignant neoplasms provided thirty or 15.3 per cent of all deaths and constituted the second highest cause of mortality. Of the persons concerned, fifteen males and nine females were fifty-five years of age or older. One male and five females had not attained their fifty-fifth year.

As in the preceding year the respiratory organs and stomach showed the highest incidence, each contributing six deaths. All the persons who died from malignant neoplasms of the respiratory organs were males between 55 and 64 years of age. In three of these patients the larynx was the organ affected, in the others the growth originated in the lung. These conditions provided 20 per cent of all cancer deaths. The corresponding figure for 1957 was 21.2.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms in the preceding year totalled thirty-three. The yearly average for the decennial period 1947-56 was 32.8.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms period 1947-58

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Deaths	26	28	25	32	32	35	39	45	38	28	33	30

There was one maternal death from Paralytic Ileus.

DEATHS BY MONTHS AND QUARTERS:

January	20	July	20
February	22	August	14
March	21	September	14
	—		—
	63		48
	—		—
April	19	October	17
May	16	November	15
June	16	December	18
	—		—
	51		50
	—		—

Included sixteen deaths from cases landed from the Bay or brought into Town for treatment.

*Births

Three hundred and eighty-three children, two hundred and four males and one hundred and seventy-nine females were registered as having been born from the civil population in 1958 providing a birth rate of 15.90 per thousand fixed British civil population which represents an increase of fourteen compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were three hundred and sixty-nine and 15.51. In addition there were twenty-one births to non-resident aliens constituting a total of four hundred and four or 15.75 per thousand total civil population.

The table on page 15 shows that with but small fluctuations there has been a gradual decline in the birth rate since 1951, notwithstanding which, births have consistently outnumbered deaths on an average by approximately one hundred and seventy every year. The relevant figure for 1958 was one hundred and eighty-seven.

* Vide Note on Page 14.

The distribution of births between hospitals, private practitioners and midwives was as follows:—

Colonial Hospital	360
Military Hospital	28
Private Practitioners	2
Midwives	14

The preference for confinement in hospital which has been a feature since the repatriation of the population continues.

Still Births

Five still births were registered during the year which amounts to 12.2 per thousand total live and still births and represents a decrease of approximately fifty per cent compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were ten and 26.3.

Statutory registration of still births was first enforced in 1950 since when, though showing considerable fluctuations, an average of approximately eight such births have been registered annually.

Illegitimate Births numbered ten amounting to 2.4 per cent of all births and representing a decrease of four compared with 1957 when the corresponding figures were 14 and 3.6 per cent.

Illegitimate Births period 1948-58

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Number	10	15	13	17	13	12	8	11	11	14	10
Rate per cent of all births	2.69	3.69	3.66	4.29	3.2	3.05	1.9	2.8	2.7	3.6	2.4

*Infant Mortality

Seven infants died before attaining the age of one year which constitutes an infant mortality rate of 18.27 per thousand live births. Five of these infants died within four weeks of birth which provides a neo-natal death rate of 13.05 per thousand.

* Vide Note on Page 14.

The deaths of these five infants were due to prematurity which in two cases was complicated by injuries sustained during labour. These deaths together with the five still births noted above represent a perinatal mortality of 24.44 per thousand total live and still births.

Perinatal mortality is a term used to describe still births and deaths occurring during the first week of life, and is a measure of the loss of life due to circumstances before and during pregnancy and events during labour and delivery.

These statistics denote a marked decrease in infant mortality compared with the preceding year when the infant mortality was 24.39 per thousand and the neonatal and perinatal mortality rates were 21.68 and 42.21 respectively.

The tables which follow show that though notwithstanding fluctuations which are to be expected when small numbers are concerned, there has been a progressive improvement in the general infant mortality since 1951, the same cannot be said about deaths in infants during the first four weeks of life, particularly so in the number of deaths occurring within a week of birth from prematurity and accidents during labour and parturition, which now invariably constitute the major factor in the loss of infant lives. This has been the experience also in the United Kingdom and other countries and much research is being undertaken to ascertain the circumstances responsible for such deaths.

Ages and Causes of Infant Deaths during 1958 were as follows:—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under one year
Left lobar pneumonia										
Upper respiratory infection						1				1
Prematurity	3				3					3
Pulmonary Atelectasis	1				1					1
Cerebral Asphyxia. Prematurity	1				1					1
Bronchopneumonia ...							1			1
TOTALS	5				5	1	1			7

PERINATAL MORTALITY PERIOD 1950-8

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Combined still births & deaths under 1 week—numbers	11	19	19	14	10	9	8	16	10
Perinatal mortality per thousand and total births	30.2	47.0	48.3	36.2	25.5	23.6	20.5	42.21	24.44
Mortality under 1 year per thousand live births	28.16	31	41.55	25.44	33.5	18.76	13.05	24.39	18.27

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND NEONATAL DEATH RATES FOR THE PERIOD 1945-58

	Infantile Mortality	Neonatal Mortality
1945	32.89	16.4
1946	36.4	9.7
1947	47.2	34.1
1948	29.56	13.5
1949	34.2	24.2
1950	28.16	8.4
1951	31	12.9
1952	41.55	36.36
1953	25.44	22.9
1954	33.5	23.19
1955	18.76	5.36
1956	13.05	10.44
1957	24.39	21.68
1958	18.27	13.05

NOTE:—

One hundred and ninety-five births and eight deaths (including four infants) which occurred among sections of the population with which these statistics are not concerned are not included in the above data.

The total number of births and deaths which occurred during the year 1958 and the corresponding crude rates were therefore as follows:—

Births.....599 or 23.36 per thousand total population.

Deaths.....220 or 8.58 per thousand total population.

Deaths in infants under one year.....11 or 18.36 per thousand total live births.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PERIODS 1930-9 AND 1945-58

Year	POPULATION		DEATHS				INFANTILE MORTALITY		BIRTHS		
	Fixed	Total	How Estimated	Fixed Population No.	Total Population No.	Rate per 1,000 population		No.	Rate per 1,000 births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Fixed Population
						Fixed Population	Total Population				
1930	15,526	16,448	Police Estimate	240	240	15.6	14.5	25	71.3	349	22.4
1931	16,188	17,613	Census	250	254	15.4	14.4	23	61.0	377	23.28
1932	15,143	16,609	Police Estimate	245	259	16.17	15.59	21	60.69	346	22.84
1933	15,071	16,397	"	241	245	15.99	14.94	14	39.2	357	23.68
1934	14,790	15,847	"	225	230	15.21	14.51	21	54.8	383	25.8
1935	15,735	16,865	"	255	265	16.20	15.71	13	67.4	267	16.9
1936	15,735	16,865	"	249	261	15.82	15.47	19	62.09	304	19.30
1937	16,792	19,541	"	256	292	15.24	14.93	25	68.24	381	22.69
1938	17,222	20,239	"	246	278	14.28	13.74	27	74.38	363	21.07
1939	18,125	20,440	"	276	296	15.22	14.25	30	79.36	378	20.85
Period of evacuation of civil population											
1945	17,448	19,232	"	155	162	8.88	8.42	20	32.89	608	34.84
1946	19,269	21,233	"	177	187	9.18	8.8	15	36.4	412	21.38
1947	20,316	22,532	"	146	148	7.18	6.56	18	47.24	381	18.75
1948	21,472	23,700	"	176	182	8.19	7.67	11	29.56	372	17.32
1949	22,208	24,585	"	181	185	8.15	7.52	14	34.2	408	18.37
1950	22,470	24,886	"	199	207	8.85	8.31	10	28.16	355	15.79
1951	19,739	21,100	Census)	241	255	12.2	12.08	12	31	387	19.6
1952	22,176	24,473	Mid-Year) Police Estimate	191	195	8.61	7.96	16	41.55	385	17.36
1953	22,629	24,736	"	186	199	8.21	8.79	10	25.44	377	16.66
1954	23,044	24,921	"	216	227	9.37	9.10	13	33.5	388	16.83
1955	23,091	24,829	"	200	216	8.66	8.69	7	18.76	373	16.15
1956	23,443	25,064	"	194	221	8.27	8.81	5	13.05	383	16.33
1957	23,783	25,403	"	232	246	9.75	9.68	9	24.39	369	15.51
1958	24,077	25,637	"	196	212	8.14	8.26	7	18.27	383	15.90

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Colonial Government are responsible for these services which are operated under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is also the Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital. This arrangement ensures a high degree of integration of the preventive and curative organizations concerned.

I am indebted to Dr. J. A. Cochrane, Chief Medical Officer, for the following information regarding the progress of these services during 1958:—

Maternity Service

Ante-natal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendance was very good. Again the majority of mothers continued to be delivered in the Colonial Hospital. A few cases were delivered in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives.

There were five locally registered midwives engaged in private practice during the year.

The average stay in hospital was 6 days.

Summary of the work of the Maternity Department

Deliveries:				
	Males	...	...	194
	Females	...	...	174
			—	368
Twins	.....			2 pairs
Premature Births	.....			7
Caesarian Sections	.....			25
Toxaemias	.....			12
Still Births	.....			5
Neonatal deaths	.....			5
Maternal Death	.....			1

Paediatric Service

During the year under review this service continued to function satisfactorily.

The number of out-patients was as follows:—

1958	1957
1,380	2,028

The Sick Children's Clinic was discontinued towards the end of the year. Sick children were accordingly seen at the General Medical Clinics as from 1st November.

Child Welfare

Clinics were held regularly throughout the year at the three existing centres, viz.: Town Clinic twice weekly, Glacis Clinic, in the North side of the town, once weekly and South Clinic once weekly. Besides these Clinics two Special Clinics a week were held by the Paediatrician-in-charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and referred cases from other Clinics were attended and advised.

Children who attended the Child Welfare Centre were referred to the Sick Children Department of the Colonial Hospital, for advice and treatment, when required.

The number of registered infants and attendances at the various centres were as follows:—

Town Clinic

	1958	1957
Number of children registered	660	608
Attendances	5,872	5,839

South Clinic

Number of children registered	98	109
Attendances	685	896

Glacis Clinic

Number of children registered	54	48
Attendances	476	426

Special Clinics held by the Paediatrician

Number of children registered	522	482
Total number of attendances	1,420	1,340
Number of Clinics held	100	100

YEAR OF BIRTH, AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON THE REGISTER WERE AS FOLLOWS:—

Town Clinic Total number on the Register: 660.

Year of Birth	Age Groups	Number
1953	Over 5 years	18
1954	4—5	43
1955	3—4	53
1956	2—3	95
1957	1—2	179
1958	0—1	272

South Clinic Total number on the Register: 98.

1953	Over 5 years	4
1954	4—5	7
1955	3—4	7
1956	2—3	13
1957	1—2	25
1958	0—1	42

Glacis Clinic Total number on the Register: 54.

1953	Over 5 years	3
1954	4—5	7
1955	3—4	5
1956	2—3	9
1957	1—2	17
1958	0—1	13

Home Visits

	1958	1957
Primary	370	352
Children under 1 year	620	715
Children over 1 year	2,682	3,041
Ante-natal	85	79
Special	108	74
Fruitless	458	335
Removals (untraced)	128	108
Centres	—	4
Houses	2,776	2,973

Immunizations (Carried out at the Colonial Hospital)

Anti-diphtheria prophylactic	Courses completed: 12
Combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic	Courses completed: 16
Boosting Dose	2

School Medical Service

Number of children inspected 1,313

General condition: A 1,299

B 14

Dental Caries and affection of gums

Dental Caries 38

Lungs and Mediastinum

Septic Tonsils 2

Heart

Functional murmurs 5

Diseases of the Skin

Urticaria 4

Eczema 1

Eyes

Defective vision 47

Squints 11

Nervous system

Nervous 2

Abnormality

Hernia 2

Thread worms 2

Referred to Clinics as result of above Medical Inspection

Number of children referred to Dental Clinic 38

Ophthalmic Clinic... 47

Surgical Clinic 6

E.N.T. 3

O.P.D. 13

Orthopaedic 36

Number of Schools Inspected 11

Cleanliness Inspection

Number of children inspected	2,961
,, ,, clean	2,901
,, ,, nits	60
,, ,, verminous	12
,, ,, notes to parents	54
,, ,, exclusions	1
,, ,, home visits	7
,, ,, dirty bodies	15

Referred to Clinics as result of above Inspection

Ophthalmic Clinic	88
Dental Clinic	92

Eye Testing

Number of children tested	2,419
Number of children with defective vision	88

SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT CARRIED OUT IN THE PRIVATE SURGERIES

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendances for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino...	169	826	383	155
Mr. J. J. Cochrane	40	151	170	27

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1958, according to the International Intermediate List with Age and Sex Incidence.

Cause of Death		Detailed List of Numbers	All Ages		Under 1 yr.		1 yr. & under 5		5 yrs. & under 15		15 yrs. & under 25		25 yrs. & under 35		35 yrs. & under 45		45 yrs. & under 55		55 yrs. & under 65		65 yrs. & under 75		75 yrs. & over	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A 1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	001-008	2																					
A 26	Tetanus	061	1																					
A 34	Infectious hepatitis	092	1																					
A 44	Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity and pharynx	140-148	1																					
A 45	Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus ...	150	2																					
A 46	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	6																					
A 49	Malignant neoplasm of larynx	161	3																					
A 50	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung, not specified as secondary	162, 163	3																					
A 51	Malignant neoplasm of breast	170	2																					
A 52	Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri ...	171	2																					
A 53	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of uterus	172-174	2																					
A 56	Malignant neoplasm of bone and connective tissue	196, 197	2																					
A 57	Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	155-160 164, 165 175, 176 178-181 192-195 198, 199	7																					
A 63	Diabetes mellitus	260	9																					
A 65	Anaemias	290-293	2																					
A 66	Allergic disorders; all other endocrine, metabolic, and blood diseases	240-245 253, 254 270-277 287-289 294-299 310-324	1																					
A 68	Psychoneuroses and disorders of personality	326	1																					
A 70	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	330-334	29																					
A 78	All other diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	341-344 350-352 354-369 380-384 386 388-390 394-398 410-416	1																					
A 80	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	420-422	2																					
A 81	Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	430-434	42																					
A 82	Other diseases of heart	440-443	4																					
A 83	Hypertension with heart disease	450-456	9																					
A 85	Diseases of arteries	460-468	1																					
A 86	Other diseases of circulatory system...	470-475	3																					
A 87	Acute upper respiratory infections ...	490	1																					
A 89	Lobar pneumonia	491	2																					
A 90	Bronchopneumonia	501, 502	2																					
A 93	Bronchitis, chronic and unqualified ...	511-517	8																					
A 97	All other respiratory diseases	520	3																					
A 99	Ulcer of stomach	522-527	2																					
A 100	Ulcer of duodenum	540	3																					
A 103	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	541	2																					
A 107	Other diseases of digestive system ...	560, 561 570	2																					
A 108	Acute nephritis	536-539	1																					
A 109	Chronic, other and unspecified nephritis	542, 544 545	1																					
A 110	Infections of kidney	573-580	2																					
A 112	Hyperplasia of prostate	582, 583	7																					
A 120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium. Delivery without mention of complication	586, 587 590	1																					
A 122	Arthritis and spondylitis	683	1																					
A 131	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis ...	687-689	1																					
A 135	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified ...	720-725 762	2																					
A 136	Senility without mention of psychosis	773-776	3																					
A 137	Ill-defined and unknown causes of morbidity and mortality	794	10																					
AN 138	Fracture of skull	780-793	2																					
AN 140	Fracture of limbs	795	2																					
AN148	Burns	N800-N804 N810-N829 N940-N949	1																					
Totals			196	4	3	—	1	2	1	2	—	2	1	—	6	10	8	31	7	34	21		13	50

CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

Provisions for the institutional care of aged or infirm persons remain the same as have been described in my previous Annual Reports.

The Colonial Government maintain two hostels, one at Beriro's Home and the other at the Little Sisters of the Poor. They are administered by the Department of Labour and Social Security, and can accommodate a total of seventy persons. A small number of aged and infirm women are cared for at the Colonial Hospital.

I understand, however, that the erection of old people's homes built and equipped on modern lines at the Little Sisters of the Poor to replace the present hostel as soon as the site is available is contemplated, and that the services of a religious order who will undertake the care of the inmates have been secured. As part of these premises are still being used as temporary dwellings, the work cannot be started until the residents are re-accommodated.

CHILDREN DEVOID OF PARENTAL CARE

The adoption of measures to provide for the welfare of children who because they are orphans or for other reasons, such as the temporary or permanent absence of the mother from the home through illness are deprived of parental care, has received attention from the Government, and consideration is being given as to the advisability of introducing a boarding-out scheme similar to that adopted in the United Kingdom whereby such children can be suitably placed with foster parents to be brought up or cared for temporarily, as the case may be, under friendly domestic conditions in preference to the establishment and maintenance of a children's home which at present is deemed unjustifiable economically in view of the small number of children involved.

The possibility of an extension of the domestic help service which has for some time been provided by the Department of Labour and Social Security, but which up to the present is limited to persons who are in receipt of assistance from public funds is also being considered.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

An occupational centre was opened during the year by the Department of Labour and Social Security for training children who are mentally or otherwise handicapped. Though

the number attending at present is small, it will undoubtedly increase as parents become aware of the benefits accruing to their children from attending the centre.

Much can be done by training these children early to encourage them to make the best of their disabilities and live comparatively useful lives, and the provision of these facilities should prove a useful help to parents who, so far as I am aware, have hitherto been left much to their own devices.

CARE OF THE BLIND

I am indebted to the Hon. Secretary of the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Mrs. Dorothy M. Ellicott, M.B.E., for the information regarding the work of the Society during the year 1958, on which this section is based.

For the first time for several years there has been an increase in the number of registered blind. In 1958 eighteen persons were added to the register and eight died. Two, previously registered as Partially Sighted, were upgraded to Blind and one woman, previously written off as Cured, has been reinstated in the register as Partially Sighted.

This increase does not imply a general deterioration in eyesight and is probably the result of poorer classes seeking registration attracted by the increase in the public assistance to the blind granted by the Government.

Blindness in Gibraltar is generally a problem of old age, and it is noteworthy that whereas under the age of 40 blind males outnumber females, there is a marked preponderance of females in subjects 60 years or over amounting to a ratio of almost 6 to 1.

The following table shows the number and grades of blindness of persons on the books of the Society on the 1st January, 1958 and the corresponding date of 1959:—

	1st Jan. 1958.		1st Jan. 1959.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Registered Blind	21	69	25	77
Registered Partially Sighted ...	2	9	1	11
*Cured	1	6	1	4
**Unclassified	—	8	—	7
	—	—	—	—
	24	92	27	99
	—	—	—	—
Totals	116		126	

* Previously registered as blind, sight improved by treatment or operation. The Society refuses to take from these people the privileges they once enjoyed. This class should eventually disappear as no one is now placed on the register if there is a fair chance of their eyesight improving.

** This class includes persons who have been on the Society's books for years but have not been registered and others who are being assisted in their struggle to retain such sight as they now possess.

Notwithstanding the old established misconception that blind persons should not be expected to work, Miss Williams, a Home Teacher who visited Gibraltar for six months on the advice of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind succeeded in persuading some of the younger blind to engage in gainful occupations including a young man who had previously refused to attempt any work and is now employed as a telephone operator, also another who has been engaged by the Department of Education as a teacher of Braille.

Most of the Society's visitors have learned basket making so that they can themselves teach the blind, and at Miss Williams' suggestion a part-time worker has been engaged to continue her work specially among the younger blind.

In March the pupils attending St. David's Sight Saving School were examined by the Government Ophthalmologist who found that only three needed special tuition and that the rest were able to attend the normal schools. The School was therefore closed and the children are now being cared for according to their needs.

An exhibition entitled "The Blind in a Sighted World" organized by Miss Williams at the Calpe Institute where many articles made by her pupils were on show was particularly successful, and blind workers also contributed to the Home Handicrafts Exhibition.

At the end of this lady's visit it was considered advisable that her stay be prolonged in order to consolidate the results of her efforts, and she agreed to remain for a further period of three months.

A number of special Bush Radios which are better adapted for use by the blind than the ordinary kind were purchased during the year, and free wireless licences which were previously only issued to those in poor circumstances are now granted to all the registered blind.

A highly successful Flag Day was held in May which realised £375.

It were presumptuous on my part to praise the work of this Society — the results speak for themselves.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases statutorily notifiable under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance in Gibraltar are: Smallpox, Cholera Epidemic Typhus, Plague, Yellow Fever, Relapsing Fever, Dysentery, Diphtheria, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, Typhoid or Enteric Fever, Undulant Fever, Acute Encephalitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Chicken Pox, Epidemic Parotitis, Erysipelas. Leprosy, Measles, Meningococcal Infection, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Paratyphoid Fever, Pertussis, Puerperal Fever, Rubella, Trachoma, Tuberculosis (all forms), Venereal disease.

Four hundred and six cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year from the civil population which represents an incidence of 16.8 per thousand, and an increase of fifty-three compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were 353 and 14.8 per thousand.

Widespread outbreaks of Whooping-Cough and Chicken Pox contributed 177 and 118 cases respectively thus accounting for 295 of the total notifications which would otherwise have been outstandingly low.

Scarlet Fever provided 25 notifications.

A single case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis and two cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Only two deaths, both caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis, were attributed to the infectious diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases for the period 1945-58.

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Numbers ...	102	103	168	252	181	225	836	462	552	311	355	828
Triennial Averages	124.3			219.3			616.6			498		

1957 = 353
1958 = 406

NOTE: One hundred and twenty-nine cases of infectious diseases notified from families of service personnel and casual visitors or who were brought into town for treatment are not included in the data recorded above.

Notifications received from all sources therefore totalled 535 which represents a crude incidence of 20.8 per thousand total population. The corresponding figures for 1957 were 427 and 16.8.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Ten persons, six males and four females whose ages ranged between 13 and 65 years were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year representing an incidence of 0.41 per thousand and an increase of two compared with 1957 when the corresponding figures were 8 and 0.33.

With the exception of a male child aged 13 years notified as primary Pulmonary Tuberculosis all were sputum positive. The oldest was a male aged 65 suffering from Pulmonary and Abdominal Tuberculosis.

Of the persons concerned two males and four females were between 15 and 24 years of age, and two males fell in the 25 and under 45 years group.

There were two deaths, both males aged 58 and 65 years respectively which represents a mortality rate of 0.08 per thousand. There were no deaths from this disease in the preceding year.

Notwithstanding the increase which occurred in the year under review, it may be said that the progressive decline in the incidence and particularly in the mortality from the disease was maintained.

The facilities for free radiological examination of prospective employees on application to the Director of Labour and Social Security which were first provided in 1952 continued to be available throughout the year, but the number of requests for such examinations is progressively smaller every year.

As the principal purpose of this arrangement is to safeguard children from being infected by nursemaids and other servants who normally are in intimate contact with them and who may be suffering from the disease in an active infectious stage, it is to be deplored that such little use is being made by parents of the facilities offered.

I am indebted to the Director of Labour and Social Security for the following table which shows details of screenings of domestic servants for the years 1952-8.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
New entrants to domestic service in Gibraltar	21	110	26	2	4	3	4
Domestic servants transferring from one employer to another	129	223	99	113	60	8	3
Domestic servants already in employment screened at employer's request	7	54	78	48	40	21	9
Total number screened.	157	387	203	163	104	32	16
Number found unfit ...	Nil	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOTE: Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (one fatal) in non-residents admitted to hospital for treatment are not included in the above data.

Incidence and Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1935-1939 and 1945-1958

Year	Cases	Deaths	Incidence per thousand	Deaths per thousand
1935	23	15	—	0.88
1936	30	19	1.90	1.20 (T.B. Officer appointed)
1937	34	21	1.74	1.08
1938	8	16	0.39	0.79
1939	16	14	0.8	—

Civil population evacuated during the war

1945	42	7	2.4	0.4
1946	30	6	1.55	0.31
1947	31	7	1.52	0.34
1948	17	12	0.72	0.51
1949	22	8	0.89	0.32
1950	19	6	0.76	0.24
1951	22	6	1.04	0.28
1952	28	4	1.26	0.18
1953	23	7	0.92	0.28
1954	25	10	1.08	0.43
1955	20	2	0.86	0.08
1956	16	1	0.68	0.04
1957	8	0	0.33	0.00
1958	10	2	0.41	0.08

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

Two cases were notified during the year. One of the patients, a female aged 5 years, was suffering from tuberculosis of the hip joint, the other, an infant aged ten months, from meningeal tuberculosis. The latter was probably infected by his father who was notified soon after as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

These represent an incidence of 0.08 per thousand. There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever

There was a decrease in the incidence of Scarlet Fever compared with the two preceding years. Twenty-five cases were notified in 1958, the majority during the first two quarters of the year. The disease continued benign.

Incidence of Scarlet Fever for the decades 1930-9 and 1946-55

1930-9

Year	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Average
Cases	10	11	12	17	17	24	31	10	20	5	15.7

1946-55

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Average
Cases	4	3	3	3	2	37	5	16	20	13	10.6

1956 = 96

1957 = 48

1958 = 25

Pertussis

There occurred a widespread outbreak of Whooping Cough which persisted throughout the year providing one hundred and seventy-seven notifications.

The incidence was highest during the second and third quarters and the disease was generally benign, in fact, there are reasons to consider that owing to the mild nature of the attacks, many cases escaped detection and that the number of notifications received underestimates the true incidence of the disease. No deaths were reported.

Poliomyelitis

Notwithstanding a considerable increase in the incidence of Poliomyelitis in the neighbouring Spanish territories and the close intercourse between our community and the peoples of these territories, only one sporadic case of paralytic Poliomyelitis in an infant aged 4 years was notified from the civil population during 1958.

On the other hand four paralytic cases, (three adults and one infant), and one non-paralytic in an adult were notified from the Services personnel and families.

The clinical manifestations were mild in all the persons affected and there were no fatalities.

The higher incidence amongst the Services as compared with the civil population together with the tendency for the disease to attack adults in the former group which hardly ever occurs in the latter, has been almost invariably a feature in its behaviour in Gibraltar, and supports the opinion held by doctors with long experience of practice locally that the majority of our children because of intimate contact with Spain where the disease is always prevalent acquire immunity early in life either from symptomless infections or mild non-paralytic attacks which pass unrecognized.

Though as stated in my Annual Report for 1957 it was decided that circumstances at the time did not warrant embarking on a mass preventive vaccination of the civilian child population, a limited quantity of British Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccine has been kept available at the Public Health Department for the use of parents who wished to have their children immunized. The response which was intended to serve as an index of its probable acceptance by parents has shown but little enthusiasm on their part, and with the exception of one practitioner who informs me that he has fully immunized forty-eight persons, there has been hardly any demand for the vaccine.

The following tables show the incidence of Poliomyelitis in Gibraltar for the periods 1935-9 and 1945-58.

1935-9

YEAR	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
CASES (Civilians)	—	—	1	3 (2 deaths)	3
(Imported)	—	—	1	—	—
(Services)	No records available.				

1945-58

YEAR	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
CASES (Civilians)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	2	1	4	1
(Imported)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	* 1 (1 death)	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Services)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 (1 death)	3	4	1	1	4	5

* Disease not confirmed — Caused by a blood dyscrasia.

Diphtheria

Two sporadic cases of Diphtheria were notified. The patients were not in any way related and extensive investigations of all contacts failed to reveal the source of the infection in either case.

Records of immunizations against Diphtheria completed at the Colonial Hospital during the year under review show a further decrease compared with the number carried out in 1957, itself a negligible figure, and judging by the requests for vaccine received at the Public Health Department from medical practitioners, the number of babies being immunized privately is equally small. A large susceptible child population is thus evolving which will provide an ideally fertile soil for the development of a serious outbreak of the disease.

The following table shows the incidence and deaths from Diphtheria during the period 1945-58.

Years	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cases	7	11	12	8	0	4	5	6	9	1	1	6	2	2
Deaths	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Chicken Pox

The high incidence of Chicken Pox reported in my Annual Report for 1957 proved the prelude to a widespread outbreak which involved the whole City in the year under review contributing one hundred and eighteen notifications.

Enteric Fever

Only two sporadic cases of Typhoid were notified — one was not confirmed serologically. One of the patients acquired the infection outside Gibraltar.

Dysentery

Twenty-eight notifications of Dysentery were received. Twenty-five of these infections occurred during the period July to November. Sh. Sonnei was the predominant causative organism followed by Sh. Flexnerii W, Sh. Flexnerii (Newcastle), Z and V, Sh. Schmitzi, Sh. Shigae and Sh. Boyd 8, which were also isolated from specimens submitted for investigation.

Investigation of the contacts of one of the patients led to the discovery of a symptomless excretor of Sh. Sonnei who was employed in the Council's water-works and to his exclusion until cleared of infection.

The fact that practically all these cases were notified by one practitioner indicates that the incidence of this disease is considerably higher than shown by the number of notifications.

No cases of Amoebic Dysentery were notified.

Rubella

Thirteen cases of Rubella were notified during the year.

Measles

Only nine cases of Measles were notified.

The following table shows the incidence of Measles in the civilian population during the period 1945-58:—

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cases	12	3	61	135	20	20	692	3	100	127	50	448	7	9

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in Gibraltar nor were any landed from the Bay in 1958.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	404*
Number who died before vaccination	5
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination	22
Number certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	6
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	5
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1958)...	280
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	86

(* includes 21 non-residents)

In addition forty-eight children who for various reasons had not been vaccinated or whose vaccinations had been postponed on account of illness were also vaccinated.

Thus three hundred and twenty-eight children were vaccinated which together with three hundred and eighty-one re-vaccinations performed on children who had attained the age of twelve years constitute a total of seven hundred and nine statutory vaccinations carried out during the year, of which six hundred and twenty-five were performed by the Public Vaccinator.

There have been no objectors to vaccination. Of the eighty-six outstanding, sixty had not attained the age of three months and notices were served on the remaining twenty-six.

Thirty-six persons were also vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator for purposes concerning the International Sanitary Regulations.

Vaccinations performed for all purposes during the year totalled seven hundred and forty-five.

Rabies

No cases of Rabies occurred during 1958.

The brain of a cat which died in convulsions soon after scratching a person was investigated at the Pasteur Institute but showed no evidence of Rabies. The last Rabies free year was 1955.

The question of introducing legislation to require the anti-rabic vaccination of dogs as a condition of registration was carefully considered, but after much deliberation it was decided that because of the lack of veterinary personnel and other factors the provision of facilities for embarking on a mass vaccination of the canine population would present almost insuperable difficulties and render the enforcement of such laws impossible at present. The matter will however be reviewed in the light of future developments.

Incidence of Rabies in Gibraltar during period 1945-1958

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Dogs	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

The arrangement made in 1955 with the Gibraltar Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals whereby the Society in consideration of a grant from the Council undertook to maintain control over the cat population by their Inspector throughout the year continued during 1958. This arrangement has proved satisfactory and led to a considerable decrease in the number of stray and often diseased cats seen marauding about the streets of our City.

A total of 625 stray, unwanted or seriously injured cats and 70 unwanted or seriously injured dogs were humanely destroyed by the Society's Inspector during the year.

On the 31st December, 1958 the control of the Colonial Government Quarantine Kennels, where dogs and cats are detained under observation and humanely destroyed if unclaimed and which had up to that date been the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police, was transferred to the Gibraltar Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I am indebted to the Society for the following information about the work done in the Kennels during the year under review:—

	Dogs	Cats
Number of strays admitted	45	7
„ „ „ claimed by owners	24	—
„ „ „ destroyed	21	7
Animals detained after biting or scratching persons...	25	5
„ „ „ „ claimed by owners...	23	3
„ „ „ „ destroyed ...	2	1
„ „ „ „ died	—	1
Animals in quarantine	6	—
„ „ „ died	1	—
„ „ transit	36	5
„ destroyed at owners' request	22	13

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1958

Notifiable Diseases	NUMBER OF CASES														Districts			No. of cases removed to Hospital	
	All Ages	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 45 years		45 and under 65 years		65 and over		North	Central		South
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.						
Pertussis	177	13	8	52	55	23	24	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	35	74	68	5
Chicken Pox	118	1	1	21	21	41	29	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	60	52	1
Scarlet Fever	25	6	2	6	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	18	4	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	5	10
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis...	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Bacillary Dysentery ...	28	2	—	4	3	5	2	2	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	17	11	1
Measles	9	2	—	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
Rubella	13	1	3	—	3	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	2	—
Mumps	14	—	—	2	5	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	3	—
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals ...	406	27	14	88	101	76	64	8	10	7	3	—	5	1	2	48	209	149	26

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population 1958

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pertussis	9	5	15	29	9	22	22	53	27	26	16	69	11	9	6	26	177	—
Chicken Pox	5	11	15	31	7	7	22	36	37	5	2	44	2	3	2	7	118	—
Scarlet Fever	4	6	3	13	4	2	1	7	1	1	2	4	1	—	—	1	25	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4	1	1	—	2	10	2
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	1	—	15	1	—	—	1	2	—
Bacillary Dysentery	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	2	3	4	3	7	3	—	10	28	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	2	2	—	4	9	—
Rubella	—	—	5	5	2	—	—	2	4	3	—	4	1	1	1	2	13	—
Mumps	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	7	2	—	1	6	1	—	—	1	14	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
TOTALS	19	26	40	85	23	39	51	113	86	41	25	152	26	20	10	56	406	2

**Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into
Town for Treatment, 1958**

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	2	4	1
Bacillary Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	2	4	1	1	—	2	9	2

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

With the exception of a few isolated instances when flies were found breeding in small accumulations of refuse which were promptly eliminated, these insects have not been a source of nuisances during 1958.

Accumulations of builders' rubble which admittedly are inevitable are at times not removed as expeditiously as they reasonably should, and invite the dumping of food scraps and other such refuse which is attractive to flies, further, kitchen refuse is not infrequently deposited in cardboard boxes at night in the bye-ways of public thoroughfares by householders in the vicinity. These are frequently overturned by marauding animals and are not only unsightly but constitute fly nuisances unless promptly cleared by the Council's scavengers. The tracing of the perpetrators of such nuisances is not only difficult and time consuming but often fruitless and frustrating, and I would appeal to all who are interested in preserving the amenities and cleanliness of our streets to co-operate with the Public Health Inspectors in their efforts to maintain them in proper conditions.

Routine measures for the control of flies were intensified during the spring and summer, particular attention being devoted to the clearance of the nuisances noted above and to the care of dustbins.

Five hundred and seventeen gallons of a five per cent solution of DDT prepared in the Public Health Department for use in sprayers were sold to the public.

Mosquitoes

With the exception of the North and South Districts and to a lesser extent the upper Town District where during the spring and summer mosquitoes were a frequent source of nuisances, these insects were not unduly prevalent during the year. Out of a total of two hundred and forty-eight breeding places which were destroyed, no less than two hundred and thirty-one were found in these districts.

Measures for the control of these insects were carried out in close co-ordination with the Services sanitarians by the regular staff of the Public Health Department without the employment of extra personnel.

One hundred and forty specimens were taken for investigation, the following species being found:—

Culex pipiens	95
(between January and December).	
Theobaldia longiareolata	45
(between January and December).	
Aedes argenteus	Nil

No insect of the species Aedes argenteus, the detection of which always receives special attention because of its being a vector of Yellow Fever, has been identified for the eighth year in succession, but in view of the possibility of the species being introduced from the neighbouring countryside, Gibraltar continues to be designated a Yellow Fever receptive area under the International Sanitary Regulations.

In the course of 21,456 inspections, two hundred and forty-eight breeding places were found and destroyed as follows:—

Tubs	4
Barrels	3
Miscellaneous	241

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1958

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	1,882	—	—	2	—	9	11
February	1,676	—	—	1	—	1	2
March	2,252	1	—	2	2	7	12
April	1,672	—	3	6	1	6	16
May	2,301	1	1	2	10	21	35
June	1,711	2	1	2	59	23	87
July	1,697	4	—	9	6	10	29
August	1,960	2	1	6	5	13	27
September	1,549	1	—	—	—	3	4
October	1,527	—	—	3	1	7	11
November	1,860	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	1,369	—	—	—	—	14	14
Totals ...	21,456	11	6	33	84	114	248

Breeding places found consisted of:—Washing tubs, drains, drinking troughs, fresh water tanks, flushing tanks, tubs, barrels, pits, earthenware vessels, etc.

RODENT CONTROL

Maximum efficiency as well as economy in the use of all materials available was ensured by maintaining close co-ordination between the civilian and services staff engaged in planning and implementing all anti-rodent measures throughout the year.

Though Warfarin was extensively used whenever favourable conditions were present, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic continued to be the staple rodenticides employed in all routine operations. Warfarin was used exclusively in all Naval premises.

Sewers, storm water drains and electricity and telephone pits were disinfested on several occasions with good results, and places suspected of affording good harbourage for rats received special attention.

The marked preponderance of carcasses of mice over those of rats recovered (1,317 mice and 73 rats) appears to indicate that the former constitute the major factor in the rodent infestation, but there is no doubt that though the rat population is being kept under reasonable control, no relaxation of the measures at present being enforced can be entertained.

The carcasses of seven rats were examined in the City Council Public Health Laboratories and reported free from plague bacilli.

Eight ships were inspected and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued under the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations.

The Anti-Rat Co-Ordinating Committee met four times during the year.

The following tables show details of treatment carried out by the Rodent Control Services during the year:—

RODENT CONTROL—SUMMARY OF TREATMENT BY COMBINED SERVICES DURING THE YEAR 1958.

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	388	17,068	12,046	6,544	61	—	1,121	1,673
Military	106	11,817	3,586	1,438	11	—	177	492
R.A.F.	15	491	351	173	1	—	19	29
Sewers and Drains	94 manholes	376	259	224	—	—	—	187
TOTALS	603	29,752	16,242	8,379	73	—	1,317	2,381

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1958.

Campaign Week	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Bait Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1/58 to 13/58	116	5,088	3,235	1,662	27	—	232	482
14/58 to 26/58	84	3,691	2,732	1,478	10	—	255	344
27/58 to 39/58	93	4,013	2,819	1,571	18	—	299	396
40/58 to 51/58	95	4,276	3,260	1,833	6	—	335	451
TOTALS ...	388	17,068	12,046	6,544	61	—	1,121	1,673

RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, AND DRAINS DURING THE YEAR 1958.

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Bait Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
26/58	23/6/58-27/6/58	8	32	24	24	—	—	—	14
27/58	30/6/58-4/7/58	15	60	40	40	—	—	—	18
28/58	7/7/58-11/7/58	10	40	30	30	—	—	—	37
29/58	14/7/58-18/7/58	16	64	44	31	—	—	—	38
30/58	21/7/58-25/7/58	15	60	56	50	—	—	—	61
31/58	28/7/58-1/8/58	10	40	29	18	—	—	—	9
32/58	5/8/58-8/8/58	10	40	24	19	—	—	—	7
33/58	11/8/58-15/8/58	10	40	12	12	—	—	—	3
TOTALS ...		94	376	259	224	—	—	—	187

NAVAL RODENT CONTROL — GIBRALTAR Period 16th December, 1957 to 16th January, 1959.

Areas	Description of Areas treated	Date	Number of Points Laid	Number of Points Discontinued.	Number of Points discontinued at 3rd week	Bait & Base used	Carcasses Found		
							R.R.	R.N.	M.M.
Nos. 4-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	16.12.57-7. 3.58.	3,672	2,016	1,566	(Sorex a. 5) 0.5%	3	—	3
Nos. 1-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	10. 3.58-20. 6.58.	4,108	2,185	1,810	1 Part. Oatmeal Medium	5	—	6
Nos. 1-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	23. 6.58-3.10.58.	4,425	2,547	1,744	19 Parts	4	—	23
Nos. 1-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	6.10.58-16. 1.59.	4,187	2,475	1,632		11	—	19
	Totals ...		16,392	9,223	6,752	—	23	—	51

PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

The Colonial Government are responsible for the control of the port health work which is carried out by two medical practitioners employed part time as Health Officers, together with a number of Boarding Officers under the administrative direction of the Captain of the Port.

Under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance, the Medical Officer of Health is also vested with the status of a Health Officer and is thereby empowered to board ships, examine persons suspected of suffering or who are suffering from infectious diseases, and impose quarantine restrictions if and when necessary.

I am indebted to the Captain of the Port for the following information relating to the work of this Department during 1958:—

Number of ships entered during 1958	8,625
Number of medical visits to ships	219
Number of patients landed,	
from British Ships	75
from Foreign Ships	90

Seven of these patients were suffering or suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases.

Only one ship was inspected and cleared by a Health Officer. This ship had landed a case of Smallpox at Suez. The crew had been vaccinated and there had been no more sickness on board.

Air

The Air Port is under the control of the Royal Air Force, and the Senior Medical Officer, who is vested with the status and powers of a Health Officer, is responsible for matters concerning the sanitation of the port and of all service aircraft.

The Colonial Government are responsible for the sanitary control, disinfection and disinsectization of Civil Aircraft. The duties concerned are performed by a Colonial Government Medical Officer as part of his general duties under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is also vested with the status and powers of a Health Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to the City Engineer, Mr. W. E. Chiappe, M.I.C.E., A.M.I. Mun.E., for assistance in the preparation of this part of the report.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable Water

The population obtain potable water by two methods (a) from roof catchments and underground tanks attached to each individual house, and (b) from City Council's supply. The latter is distributed mainly direct by pipes through permanent meters, but a small proportion is drawn by bucket or barrel from the Council's street fountains. The demand for supplies from fountains is decreasing in consequence of the large number of premises which are being provided with direct supplies from the City Council mains. In addition potable water is supplied to private underground tanks during the dry season through temporary meters and flexible hoses and in smaller quantities by tank lorry to those consumers whose premises are not within a reasonable distance from the distributing mains.

All barrels are sterilized at weekly intervals. The public health staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Samples from ninety-nine suspected tanks and other sources were taken in 1958.

The year started with a reasonable stock of potable water in the reservoirs but hardly any rain fell during the winter season, and in consequence the dry season started with stocks nine million gallons short of full capacity.

Pumping from potable water wells was steadily maintained at the average level but only one evaporator could be occasionally used. The yield from this source was insignificant, a total of over two and a half million gallons being produced over a prolonged period.

Four new tankers on their way out East discharged a total of over fourteen and a half million gallons of potable water into the Council's reservoirs in May, June, July and October and but for heavy rain in December more water would have had to be imported.

Stocks at the end of the year were reasonably good though slightly below the desired figure.

The Base Exchange Water Softening Plant continued to function throughout the year. The hardness of well water is reduced from approximately thirty-two degrees to zero, then blended with raw water to the optimum degree of hardness viz:— ten degrees. The blended water after chloramination is pumped into a service tank and then lifted into the Council's reservoirs for distribution to the public, after it has been subjected to a bacteriological examination to establish its purity.

Sixty-four and a half million gallons were issued during the year from various Council's sources.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1958 totalled 19.31 inches.

The supply of boiler water to Shipping from Council's sources at the Watering Jetty was maintained throughout the year.

Brackish Water

Brackish water is supplied by the Council for general sanitary purposes, fire fighting and other requirements.

The quantity of brackish water pumped during the year amounted to some four hundred and twelve million gallons.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

Domestic refuse is collected and disposed of daily by the City Council.

In addition to an average of 30 tons of domestic refuse which is collected by the Council's scavenging lorries, approximately 6 tons of trade refuse, consisting of tobacco dust, wood shavings, sawdust, waste paper, coffee waste, condemned foods and other materials are carried by private lorries to the Refuse Destructor and burnt every day.

Sewage Disposal

The whole of the sewage of Gibraltar eventually discharges into the sea at Europa Point Outfall.

Numerous storm overflows exist along the line of the main sewer and come into operation during times of heavy floods. The configuration of the Rock is such that very large volumes of storm water rapidly reach the lower levels and the main sewer is then taxed to the utmost. The rate of run-off is such that during heavy rains boulders and much silt reach the sewers.

The new sewer and sewage pumps installed at North Front are working satisfactorily.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from the low level during 1958 amounted to approximately 196,000,000 gallons.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

Full use was made of the Asphalt mixing plant installed at Catalan Bay Depot, and hot and cold asphalt for resurfacing of roads, re-instatements and other purposes, was produced.

Final resurfacing of Europa Road between Engineer Road junction and the south junction of King George V. Hospital was completed early in the year. Improvements to South Barrack Road and Eastern Beach Road were also carried out.

Road improvements along Rosia Road from bottom of Red Sands Road to New Mole Parade were in progress and should be completed early in 1959.

Other public highways were maintained in as good a condition as possible, patching and potholing being carried out as and when circumstances permitted. Several carriageways were re-surfaced in asphalt.

Flushing of streets was carried out periodically and intensified during the dry season.

Sweeping of streets was done in the normal way and a high degree of cleanliness was maintained.

Public Baths

The Tarik hot and cold fresh water slipper baths were open throughout the year and the Sea Bathing Establishment at Montagu continued to be well patronized in summer. Fresh water shower baths introduced a few years ago have become increasingly popular.

Eastern Beach which is much favoured by the residents is controlled by the City Council during the bathing season. A boat patrols the beach throughout the day and two chalets provided with sanitary accommodation are available free of charge to bathers for use as changing rooms. These are kept open until half an hour after sunset.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE

The summary of work done by the Public Health Inspectors shows that seventeen thousand, eight hundred and fifty house-to-house inspections were carried out in the course of which four thousand, one hundred and sixty nuisances were discovered and abated.

These included two hundred and sixty-seven investigations carried out at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Works for the purpose of reporting on the living conditions of applicants for accommodation in Government-owned premises or following complaints made to the Public Health Department by persons living in overcrowded homes, also four hundred and twenty-five to determine the fitness of apartments for subletting referred to the Department by the authorities concerned.

Food catering establishments, bakeries, dairies and mineral water factories were visited on one thousand, nine hundred and ninety-one occasions.

Seventy-five samples of food and drugs were taken and analyzed in the Council's Public Health Laboratories, and ninety-nine samples of water from private underground tanks, the Council's water fountains and other sources were taken and submitted to the Laboratories for bacteriological investigation.

Investigation and control of infectious diseases entailed three hundred and twenty-six visits, and a camp where certain foreign emigrants in transit through Gibraltar are housed was visited daily by a Public Health Inspector.

Legal proceedings for infringements of the Public Health Ordinance were instituted against house-owners on three occasions.

Summary of Work done by the Public Health Inspectors

Complaints Received:

Written	2
Verbal	720

Premises Inspected:

House-to-House inspection	17,850
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Statutory Notices:

Served	436
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Nuisances Found:

Defective drains	259
Obstructed drains	456
Defective W.Cs	64
Defective W.C. fittings	687
Defective water fittings	241
Defective rainwater pipes	58
Defective eavesgutters	93
Defective roofs	116
Defective ceilings	13
Defective wall plaster	165
Defective floors	42
Defective yard paving	7
Dampness	30
Premises dirty	97
Defective or no dustbin	338
Other minor defects	1,140
Underground tank not insect proof	11
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover	8
Brackish water running to waste	309
Smoke and soot nuisance	26
Street water fittings found defective	134
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	42
Premises disinfected for vermin, etc.	72
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station	7,976
Visits of enquiry re Infectious Disease	326
Cases removed in Ambulance:	
Local	230
Bay	82
Samples of water taken for analysis	99
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	75
Foodstuffs, etc., condemned as unsound. Vide Page 58	
Visits to milk shops	6
Visits to eating houses bakeries, shops, etc.	1,800
Visits to mineral water factories	185

Visits to hairdressers and barber shops	388
Visits to premises to ascertain if nuisances reported are being abated	4,395
Visits to Refugee Camp	235
Inspection of Vessels (Deratting Exemption Certi- ficates)	8
Vaccination notices served	321
Legal proceedings instituted	3

Lodging Houses:

There are no common lodging houses in Gibraltar.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE

The Public Markets

But for a few small areas the levelling and resurfacing of various parts of the Markets was completed during the year.

The reflooring of the Meat Hall was again deferred, but experiments were carried out to ascertain the most suitable material for the purpose, and it is envisaged that the work will be carried out in 1959.

Food

Supplies of food have been adequate throughout the year.

Meat

All supplies of beef, mutton, veal, pork and offal were imported frozen from the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark and Holland by the butchers and retailed at prices which varied according to kind and country of origin.

Small consignments of fresh Kosher meat were imported regularly by special arrangement from Spain and Tangiers for the exclusive use of the Hebrew Community.

All meat must be accompanied by a certificate from the Health Authority of the country of origin, and is further inspected by the Markets Inspectors before it is exposed for sale to the public.

Adequate supplies of poultry from Spain and game when in season were available throughout the year. Frozen fowls were also imported from Denmark and Holland and rabbits from Australia.

Eggs

Adequate supplies were imported from Spain, Morocco and Holland.

Fish

With the exception of small consignments brought in by local fishing boats all fish was imported from Spain, and though supplies were subject to fluctuations depending on weather conditions and other circumstances, they were generally adequate and the fish fresh and of good quality.

The average daily importation amounted to 2,600 pounds, and the retail prices, though high, compared favourably with those obtaining in the Spanish markets.

All fish was inspected by the Markets Inspectors before being exposed for sale in the Markets or allowed to be taken out for sale in the streets by licensed itinerant vendors. The fact that only 288 pounds were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the whole year testifies to the quality of the article imported.

The daily average number of licences issued to street vendors was twenty-eight.

Fruit and Vegetables

Abundant supplies of excellent quality have been imported from Spain daily and sold at the Markets, shops in town and in the streets by licensed itinerant vendors.

On an average fifty-one such licences were issued daily.

The retail prices continued unduly high compared with those current in Spanish markets.

Milk

The amount of fresh milk consumed by the public is negligible, condensed or evaporated tinned varieties are the staple products commonly used.

An average of approximately one hundred litres of fresh milk were imported from Spain daily, which in accordance with the City Council Milk and Dairies Bye-Laws must be heated to a temperature of 200°F for twenty minutes before it is sold to the public.

All the samples which were taken and analysed were found to conform with the statutory requirements. The sale of fresh skimmed milk is prohibited.

Small quantities of sterilized or pasteurized fresh milk were imported tinned or deep frozen solid from the United Kingdom and reconstituted milk processed locally from skimmed milk powder by the addition of edible fats and vitamins, and subsequently pasteurized was also available during the year.

Groceries

Supplies of groceries imported from the United Kingdom and other countries have been adequate and of satisfactory quality.

Ice-Cream

All premises wherein ice-creams are manufactured must be registered with the City Council in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance, and registration is subject to the premises and equipment being declared satisfactory by the Medical Officer of Health.

Registered premises were visited frequently by the Department's Inspectors, and samples taken and examined at the Council's Public Health Laboratories. The owner of one establishment whose products were found to be consistently of an unsatisfactory standard and who after repeated warnings failed to cause any improvement was debarred from manufacturing ice-creams until a number of samples of an acceptable quality were produced.

Considerable quantities of ice-creams manufactured by reputable firms in Great Britain were also imported regularly during the hot season. The sale of these products is conditional to their being sold in the original sealed wrappers or containers as issued by the manufacturers, and subject to the same sanitary requirements as those produced locally.

Samples of these ice-creams were taken regularly and found satisfactory on bacteriological examination.

The sale of ice-creams in the streets, sports grounds and other public places by itinerant vendors is strictly controlled. The products must be sold in the original wrappers and the vehicles used must be submitted for inspection and approval before licences are issued.

Eating Houses Confectioneries and Cafes

All premises wherein food is prepared by any process of cooking or which are used for the manufacture or preservation of food products as well as purveyors and vendors of refreshments, confectionery, cakes, sweets and shell fish must be registered with the City Council.

All food catering establishments were inspected regularly at frequent intervals by the Department's Inspectors who paid one thousand, nine hundred and ninety-one visits during the year and who availed themselves of all such opportunities to advise owners and employees on food hygiene.

Though considerable improvement in food hygiene has been attained by much uphill work and perseverance on the part of the Inspectors, the circumstances particularly in some of the smaller food catering establishments still leave much to be desired. Lack of space in kitchens, which results in

overcrowding of workers, inadequate food storing facilities and cluttering of equipment and utensils together with frequent changes in personnel and servers who are often ignorant of the most elementary principles of food hygiene, and worse still take scant interest in learning, militate against the attainment of reasonably satisfactory standards in the handling of foodstuffs.

The Public Health Inspectors do all within their power to enforce such measures as are prescribed by the Food Laws, but the public can contribute greatly by limiting their patronage to establishments wherein cleanliness in the handling, preparation and serving of food receives due care.

Food Poisoning

A small outbreak of food poisoning occurred in an hotel in March which involved nine persons. Four of these who were taken acutely ill with diarrhoea and vomiting soon after landing from a passenger boat admitted having felt unwell before disembarking, and it is probable that the food which caused the condition was consumed on board. The fifth was a waiter who attended to them and was taken ill the day following, whilst four other residents on the same floor suffered similar attacks some three days after. A *Salmonella* of the Serological Group "B" which it was established was neither *S. Typhi-Murium* or *S. Paratyphi* "B" but which it was not possible to type further was isolated from the stools of three of the original patients, from the waiter and from two of the secondary cases. The latter used the same water closets as those primarily affected, and may have acquired their infections from that source. Prompt action was taken and no other cases occurred.

A second minor outbreak occurred in June and affected nine persons. Three were members of the same household, the others lived in various districts of the City. All were taken acutely ill between the 23rd and 24th June with diarrhoea and vomiting which started from two to four hours after eating cream pastries elaborated in the same confectionery. No specific organisms were isolated from the pastries, but the profuse bacteriological flora indicated faulty preparation and/or handling of the food concerned. All the personnel of the establishment concerned were examined, but no evidence of skin lesions or recent illness was found and the conditions in the confectionery were reasonably satisfactory. The owner was informed and advised regarding preventive measures to be taken, and no further cases occurred.

A familial incident involving four members of a household was also notified. All were taken acutely ill with diarrhoea, vomiting and prostration starting approximately four hours after eating an almond and egg sweet made at home. A pure culture of *Staphilococcus Aureus* was isolated from the sweet in question.

An isolated case caused by food eaten outside Gibraltar was also reported completing a total of twenty-three cases notified during the year.

Condemnation of Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and condemned:—

	Health Department Inspectors	Markets Inspectors
Tinned Shoulder Hams		431 pounds
Frozen Chickens		49 „
Fresh Livers		15 „
Whiting		85 „
Gurnet		20 „
Donkey Fish		15 „
Cuttlefish		40 „
Mackerel		128 „
Calves' Feet		84 „
Tinned Ham	1,272 pounds	
Luncheon Meat	429 „	
Bacon	182 „	
Pork Loins	96 „	
Gammon	95 „	
Kidneys	168 „	
Brawn	84 „	
Sausages	55 „	
Fowls	217 „	
Corned Beef	49 „	
Smoked Herrings	873 „	
“Salami”	48 „	
Christmas Pudding	280 „	
Ox Tongue	12 „	
Cheese	460 „	
Vermicelli	206 „	

**Health Department
Inspectors**

**Markets
Inspectors**

"Kaviar"	18 pounds
Tarts and Swiss Rolls	2,830 in number
Frozen Milk	3,700 quarts
Mayonnaise	44 tins
Peas and beans	26 pounds
Salad Cream	104—7 oz. bottles
Fruit Salad	8 tins
Lard	24 pounds
Tomato Paste	1,153 tins
Jam	110 pounds

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Three blocks comprising nine, forty and twenty-four flats respectively which in pursuance of the Government Housing Scheme were being constructed at "Lake Chad" were finished and put into service in 1958, and the erection of two blocks one of which will provide seventy and the other forty flats was begun. These dwellings will complete the planned building programme for "Lake Chad" and replace the nissen huts erected for temporary housing purposes which have all been demolished and a most unsightly and undesirable slum eliminated.

Thus, including fifty-six which were built in 1957, a total of one hundred and twenty-nine flats for the use of families in the lower income groups have been completed and occupied in this district up to the end of December of the year under review, and it is envisaged that the one hundred and ten under construction will be available for occupation during 1959.

A block of twenty flats was also placed under construction in Naval Hospital Road.

In comparison the number of new dwellings erected privately may be said to have been almost negligible and together with small flats and other such tenements which have been constructed by extensions or by structural alterations to existing buildings, have either been occupied by the proprietors themselves or let as furnished accommodation at rentals which are prohibitive to the average income earner.

It is worthy of note that at long last the old, extremely dilapidated, dangerous and slummy tenement building known as "Patio Danino" which had for many years been a source of anxiety and endless trouble to all concerned with the promotion of health, hygiene and sanitation, was finally declared unfit for human habitation by a Court Order and the occupants rehoused. The ruins however still rear their disreputable ugly face to mar the amenities of the district, and it is hoped that they will be demolished and replaced by modern type dwellings in the not too distant future.

The following table kindly furnished by the Commissioner of Lands and Works details the progress of the Government Housing Scheme during the year 1958:—

Houses Completed

Fearless House, "Lake Chad"	9 flats
Hood House, "Lake Chad"	40 flats
Resolution House, "Lake Chad"	24 flats
	<hr/>
	73 flats
	<hr/>

Houses under Construction

Naval Hospital Road	20 flats
Block 5, "Lake Chad"	70 flats
Block 6, "Lake Chad"	40 flats
	<hr/>
	130 flats
	<hr/>

Town Planning

The Central Planning Commission appointed under the provisions of the Building (Interim Control) Ordinance continued to meet regularly during the year. At these Meetings plans for the erection of new buildings, improvements to existing structures and other constructional projects were considered. The said Ordinance does not in any way detract from the powers vested in the City Council by the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, and eighty applications for permission to effect structural alterations to existing premises or to erect new buildings were considered and reported on under these powers.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The City Council maintains a fleet of three ambulances which though primarily intended for the conveyance of persons suffering from infectious diseases, constitutes the only official Ambulance Service for the conveyance of civilian patients from Town, those landed from the Bay, and by special arrangements from Spain.

Three hundred and twelve patients, two hundred and thirty from Town and eighty-two from the Bay were conveyed in the Council's Ambulances during the year, an increase of forty-one compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figure was two hundred and seventy-one.

Fourteen of these patients, seven from Town and seven from the Bay were suffering or suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases, the others had been involved in accidents or were suffering from non-infectious conditions.

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—
Pneumonia	6	5
Acute Dysentery	—	1
Tetanus	—	1
Appendicitis	1	13
Cancer	2	—
Cardio Vascular Diseases	68	3
Maternity Cases	9	4
Mental Cases	11	3
Fractures and Injuries	36	13
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases)	96	39
	230	82

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., continued to be carried out at the Disinfection Station in Line Wall Road.

There was a welcome decrease in the number of water vendors' barrels disinfected. These barrels are steam disinfected and sealed every week in accordance with the Council's Bye-Laws and as more dwellings are being provided with a piped City Council water supply, the number of vendors is steadily declining.

The total number of articles disinfected shows a marked increase due principally to disinfection of old clothes, mattresses and other similar articles which have been imported for sale or otherwise to be used in Gibraltar, and the introduction of which is conditional to their being disinfected at the Council's Disinfection Station in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance.

Table below gives details of the work done at the Station during 1958.

Months	Beds and Matt- resses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Coun- ter panes	Water Vend- ors' Barrels	Sun- dries	Totals
January	12	18	20	16	9	232	23	330
February	12	14	20	14	6	232	231	529
March	22	20	20	24	10	232	244	572
April	13	14	18	14	2	290	26	377
May	6	6	8	6	—	232	992	1,250
June	1	—	4	—	—	196	340	541
July	33	4	104	3	2	157	706	1,009
August	4	3	2	—	—	95	405	509
September	2	2	2	4	—	153	1,260	1,423
October	—	—	—	—	—	99	310	409
November	—	—	—	—	—	134	—	134
December	4	4	8	4	—	126	747	893
Totals	109	85	206	85	29	2,178	5,284	7,976

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

One hundred and fourteen Council employees were medically examined during the year. The majority were routine examinations to determine the fitness of applicants for employment, a few were for the purpose of making recommendations related to retirement from the Council's service for reasons of health.

Applicants suspected of suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were referred to the Colonial Government Medical Specialist at King George V. Hospital for radiological examination.

January	8
February	18
March	12
April	37
May	7
June	5
July	6
August	4
September	4
October	8
November	3
December	2

Total ... 114

OTHER MATTERS CONCERNED WITH THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

The Advisory Board of Health is a statutory Board constituted by the Governor under the powers vested in him by the Public Health Ordinance and is the principal co-ordinating body in medical matters between the Medical Services of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, the Colonial Government Medical Service, and the Public Health Service.

The following is a brief summary of the subjects discussed and on which recommendations were made at meetings which were held regularly throughout the year:—

Advisability of mass poliomyelitis vaccination of children in the light of increased incidence of the disease in the neighbouring Spanish towns.

Compulsory inoculation of dogs against rabies.

Changes in the notification of infectious diseases from Northern Zone of Morocco.

Provision of a new Isolation Hospital for the treatment of the quarantinable diseases to replace the present one, and of a Mosquito-Proof Quarantine Station for the isolation of travellers without valid yellow fever vaccination certificates.

Amendments to the Animals and Birds Ordinance.

Ensuring anonymity in laboratory investigations of venereal diseases.

Control of mosquitoes.

Port Medical Service.

Suggested anti-litter legislation.

Matters concerning the International Sanitary Regulations.

General Practitioners Service

The number of medical practitioners engaged in general practice appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1958 was eight, providing a ratio of approximately 1 to 3,200 population. The corresponding figures for 1957 were nine practitioners, a ratio of 1 to 2,700 population.

Four hold part-time appointments with the Colonial Government. Two in connection with the Hospital Services, the others as Port Medical Officers.

District Medical Services

A medical officer of the Colonial Hospital assisted by two district nurses provides medical treatment and care for the indigent sick and the aged at a special clinic held daily in the Exchange Buildings and by domiciliary visits when necessary.

Dentists

The number of civilian dentists appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1958 was seven. Four hold qualifications obtained in Great Britain, the others have been trained and licensed to practice in Gibraltar. Two dentists are employed part time by the Government to attend to school children.

Nursing Services

The number of nurses included in the register under the provisions of the Nurses Registration Regulations on the 31st December, 1958 was twenty, the same as in the preceding year. Of these, eleven are females and nine males. Two of the female nurses are State Registered but are no longer in practice, the rest have been trained at the Government Nurses Training School at the Colonial Hospital and registered after passing the prescribed examinations. All are employed at the Colonial Hospitals.

The training of recruits at the school continues and ten are pursuing the necessary studies in the United Kingdom to obtain the State Registration Certificate.

The number of midwives registered under the Midwives Ordinance who continue in practice remained at five.

These figures do not include the Colonial Nursing Sisters.

With the exception of two district nurses who only attend indigent patients under the direction of the District Medical Officer, there are no qualified nurses engaged in domiciliary work.

There is a dire need for trained nurses who will undertake to nurse patients in their homes, but few, if any, are attracted to this essential service. Because of the lack of reliable nursing many patients are referred for admission to hospital who would prefer to undergo treatment by their private doctor at home, and who could adequately be treated under home conditions if nurses were available.

It may be that if the wide scope and opportunities for the study of human beings and of the influence of environ-

ment, work, social conditions and family relations on health and disease offered by the intimate association inherent to the nursing of patients in their homes were suitably brought to the notice of students in the course of their training, some of the keener and more enterprising might become interested and follow this branch of this profession.

Legislation relevant to Medical and Public Health Interests enacted during the year

The Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1958 came into force on the 7th of August.

This Ordinance replaces and repeals in toto the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, the principal innovation introduced being that registration becomes the responsibility of the Medical and Dental Board entirely, and the Board is thereby empowered to register or strike off a person without the necessity for prior reference to the Governor for directions. The existing rights of any person whose name has been ordered to be struck off the Register to appeal to the Supreme Court have been retained, and otherwise the provisions of this legal instrument have been rendered more in accord with the United Kingdom principles.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

REPORT OF THE PATHOLOGIST-ANALYST, GIBRALTAR

During the year 1958 the City Council Laboratories carried out a total of twenty-two thousand, eight hundred and nine investigations on specimens submitted from various sources. This number shows a slight increase on the previous year's total, and the following table represents a break-down of the tests performed and the authority for whom they were done. The column headed "Civil" shows the work carried out for the Medical Officer of Health, General Practitioners and others not included under the other four headings.

From this table it can be appreciated that apart from work related to public health, the laboratory continues to perform all the investigations of a clinical pathological nature for the entire civilian population of Gibraltar as well as analyses on specimens submitted in order to ascertain their compliance with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Ordinance and Bye-laws.

The laboratory is recognized by the World Health Organization as a centre for vaccination against Yellow Fever and forty-eight such vaccinations on persons mostly on their way to West Africa were carried out during the year.

Numerous specimens of faeces were submitted for bacteriological culture of possible pathogenic organisms and on twenty-seven separate occasions organisms of the *Shigella* group were isolated. Agglutination tests proved them to belong to the following types:—Sh. *Sonnei* 10 cases, Sh. *Flexnerii* W. 8 cases, Sh. *Flexnerii* Z. 2 cases, Sh. *Flexnerii* V. 1 case, Sh. *Newcastle* 3 cases, Sh. *Shigae* 1 case, Sh. *Boyd* 8. 1 case and Sh. *Schmitzi* 1 case. There is reason to believe that the above constitute only a very small proportion of the total number of cases of Dysentery which occurred during the year, because Bacillary Dysentery being a relatively mild disease and one which responds readily to Chemotherapy, investigation of a bacteriological nature is often not considered necessary by the medical attendant.

During the latter part of March and early April, there was a small confined outbreak of food poisoning in one of the local hotels. It seems likely that the cases were infected while travelling to Gibraltar by ship and their symptoms developed either prior to or immediately on landing. One of the waiters and a resident on the same floor of the hotel

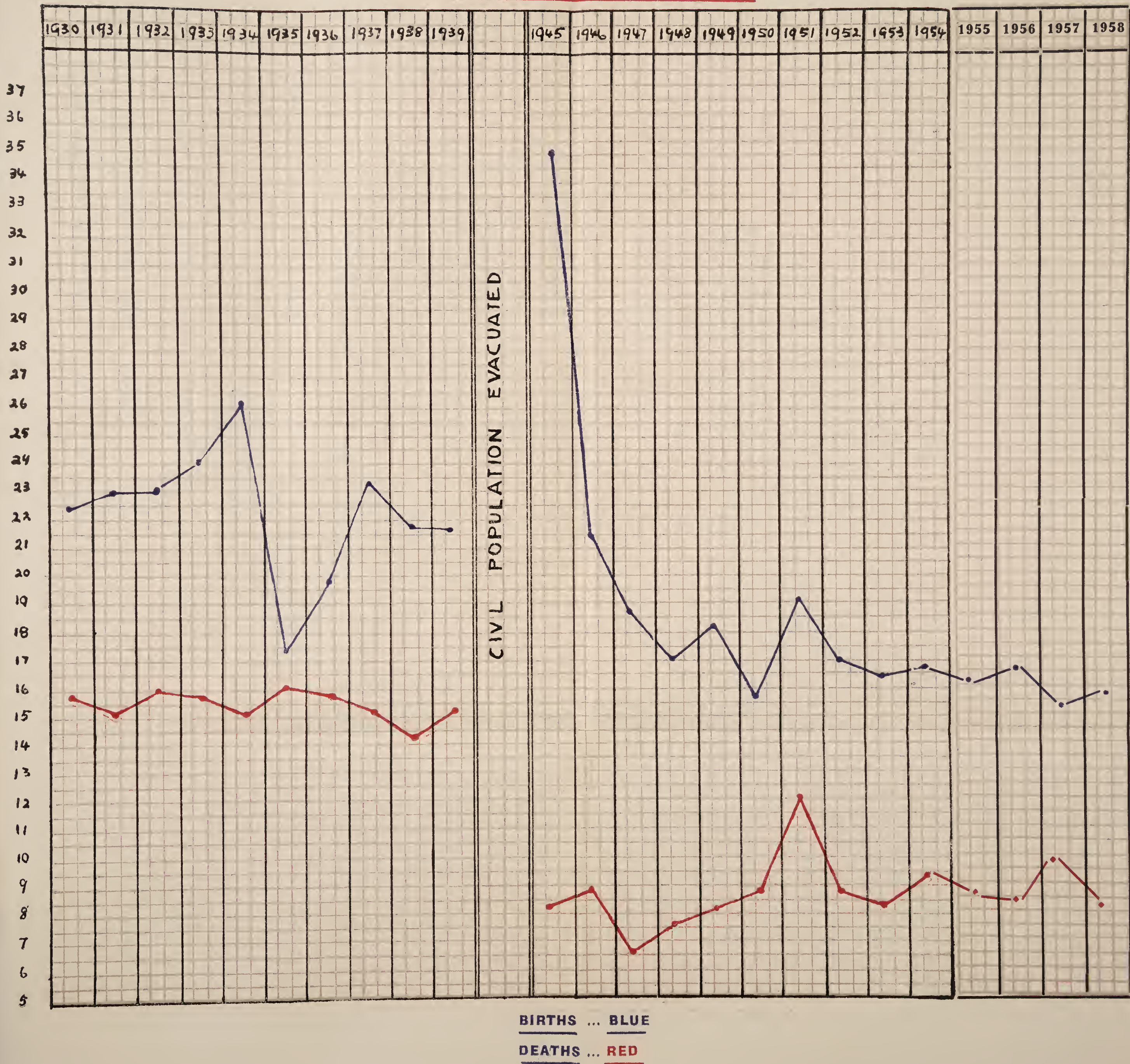
INVESTIGATIONS		Civil	Colonial Hospital	K. G. V. Hospital	Navy	Military	Total
BLOOD	Wassermann Reaction	85	448	114	1	3	651
	Kahn test	85	448	114	1	3	651
	Gonococcal Fixation Test	3	—	1	—	1	5
	Bergers Victoria Blue Test	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Widal Agglutination Test	280	—	107	—	10	511
	Paul Bunnell Test	—	1	—	—	2	3
	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Reaction	117	107	3	—	—	227
	Urea Estimation	55	90	109	—	—	254
	Malaria Parasites in film	1	2	1	—	—	4
	Sugar estimation	369	124	102	—	—	595
	Rhesus Factor	15	499	27	—	—	541
	Grouping	15	509	27	—	—	551
	Cross Matching	—	—	37	—	—	37
	Red Cells Count	257	558	468	—	—	1,283
	White Cells Count	229	339	473	—	—	1,041
	Differential Count	199	323	274	—	—	796
	Film	—	16	2	—	—	18
	Platelets and Eosinophiles	—	—	7	—	—	7
	Bone-Marrow (Myelogram)	—	—	5	—	—	5
	Packed Cell Volume	3	8	15	—	—	26
	Mean Corpuscular Volume	3	8	15	—	—	26
	Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin	3	8	15	—	—	26
	Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration	3	8	15	—	—	26
	Reticulocytes Count	2	6	10	—	—	18
	Picture	1	4	2	—	—	7
	Haemoglobin Estimation	289	976	455	—	—	1,720
	Colour Index	251	599	452	—	—	1,302
	Culture	16	36	16	—	—	68
	Calcium Estimation	1	—	5	—	—	6
	Uric Acid Estimation	3	9	8	—	—	11
	Cholesterol Estimation	8	7	35	—	—	52
	Alkaline Phosphatase Estimation	9	10	20	—	—	36
	Acid Phosphatase Estimation	1	—	3	—	—	14
	Van-den Bergh Test	1	—	32	—	—	33
	Total Plasma Proteins Estimation	14	16	32	—	—	62
	Albumen Estimation	13	16	31	—	—	60
	Globulin Estimation	12	16	31	—	—	59
	A/G Ratio	12	15	24	—	—	51
	Cold Agglutination Test	—	1	1	—	—	2
	Chlorides Estimation	—	9	43	—	1	53
	Potassium Estimation	—	8	41	—	5	54
	Sodium Estimation	—	8	42	—	—	55
CO ₂ Combining Power	10	10	48	—	—	56	
Bilirubin Estimation	10	7	14	—	—	34	
Thymol Turbidity	10	7	20	—	—	37	
Thymol Flocculation	10	7	21	—	—	36	
Zinc Sulphate Turbidity	8	—	7	—	—	7	
Bromsulphthalein Test	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Fragility of Red Cells	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Schumm's Test	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Prothrombin Test (P.C.T.R.)	3	25	227	—	—	255	
L.E. Cells	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Specific Gravity	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Coomb's Test	10	10	—	—	—	20	
BACTERIOLOGY	Organisms cultured for sensitivity	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Penicillin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Streptomycin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Chloromycetin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Terramycin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Aureomycin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Polymyxin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Erythromycin	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Sensitivity to Tetracycn	50	114	86	—	—	250
	Direct examination for Acid fast Bacillus	—	—	—	—	—	—
CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID	Wassermann Reaction	—	7	12	—	1	20
	Lange's Curve	—	5	11	—	1	17
	Cells Count	—	14	16	—	—	30
	Protein Estimation	—	13	14	—	—	27
	Chlorides Estimation	—	14	13	—	—	27
	Globulin Estimation	—	4	3	—	—	7
	Glucose Estimation	—	11	13	—	—	24
	Culture	—	10	11	—	—	21
	Tubercle Bacillus — Direct examination	—	3	2	—	—	5
	Gram stain on direct smear	44	50	—	—	—	94
SWABS	K.L.B. Culture on Loeffler Serum	47	18	—	—	—	65
	K.L.B. Culture on Hoyles Tellurite Medium ..	47	18	—	—	—	65
	Vincent Organisms	4	8	—	—	—	12
	Culture for Organisms	18	43	31	—	—	92
	Direct examination for Acid fast Bacillus	—	2	6	—	—	8
	Acid fast Bacillus — Direct examination	31	29	389	—	—	449
	Culture for organisms	16	10	99	—	—	125
	Culture for Tubercle Bacillus	—	2	11	—	—	13
	Malignant Cells	—	—	4	—	—	4
	Presence of blood	—	—	3	—	—	3
SPUTUM	Gram Stain on Cultured Organisms	16	10	99	—	—	125
	Acid fast Bacillus — Direct examination	31	29	389	—	—	449
	Culture for organisms	16	10	99	—	—	125
	Culture for Tubercle Bacillus	—	2	11	—	—	13
	Malignant Cells	—	—	4	—	—	4
	Presence of blood	—	—	3	—	—	3
	Gram Stain on Cultured Organisms	16	10	99	—	—	125
	Microscopical examination	570	46	52	—	—	668
	Occult Blood, Benzidine Test	34	33	9	—	—	76
	Fat Estimation	16	10	28	—	—	54
FAECES	Tubercle Bacillus	3	9	18	—	—	27
	Culture for Organisms	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Acid fast Bacillus — Direct examination	14	29	23	—	—	66
	Culture for organisms	24	5	1	—	—	30
	Acid fast Bacillus	4	2	8	—	—	14
	Microscopical examination	1	—	8	—	—	9
	Tubercle Bacillus	1	—	1	—	—	2
	Revalto's Test	1	—	7	—	—	8
	Malignant Cells	1	1	1	—	—	1
	Specific Gravity	—	—	9	—	—	11
PUS	Protein	—	—	3	—	—	3
	Chemical examination	4	640	140	—	—	784
	Culture for organisms	—	1	—	—	—	1
	Microscopical examination	1,694	880	616	—	—	3,190
	Tubercle Bacillus	77	172	125	—	—	374
	Revalto's Test	287	240	160	—	—	687
	Microscopical examination	15	1	3	—	—	19
	Acetone	56	17	10	—	—	83
	Bile Pigment	4	2	—	—	—	6
	Urobilinogen	7	—	20	—	—	27
PLEURAL FLUID	Urea estimation	4	1	1	—	—	6
	Bile Salts	4	1	1	—	—	6
	Calcium	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Chlorides	1	—	2	—	—	3
	Direct examination for Acid and Alcohol Fast Bacillus	2	46	2	—	—	50
	Lead	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Creatinine Estimation	—	—	1	—	—	1
	17 Ketosteroids	—	1	4	—	—	5
	Chemical examination	238	—	—	—	—	275
	Culture for organisms	1	—	—	—	—	1
URINE	Microscopical examination	548	—	—	37	—	618
	Occult Blood, Benzidine Test	7	—	—	70	—	15
	Fat Estimation	8	—	—	8	—	9
	Tubercle Bacillus	7	—	—	1	—	7
	Chemical (Chloride)	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Chemical (Mineral Contents)	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Ammonia Salts	45	9	—	—	—	13
	P.H.	7	196	—	—	—	48
	Chemical examination	3	1	—	—	—	203
	Culture for organisms	5	—	—	—	—	6
WATER	Urobilinogen	3	—	—	—	—	3
	Urea estimation	8	—	—	—	—	12
	Bile Salts	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Calcium	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Chlorides	1	2	1	—	—	3
	Direct examination for Acid and Alcohol Fast Bacillus	—	11	1	—	—	12
	Lead	96	1	—	—	—	1
	Creatinine Estimation	3	—	—	—	—	96
	17 Ketosteroids	3	—	—	—	—	3
	Chemical (Chloride)	39	—	—	—	—	39
BLEACHING POWDER (Chemical)	Plate Count	56	—	—	—	—	56
	Chemical (Chloride)	32	—	—	—	—	32
	Chemical (Mineral Contents)	78	—	—	—	—	78
	Ammonia Salts	4	—	—	—	—	4
	P.H.	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Chemical examination	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Culture for organisms	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Microscopical examination	45	3	—	—	—	48
	Acetone	7	1	—	—	—	203
	Bile Pigment	5	—	—	—	—	6
SEMINAL FLUID (Complete examination)	Urobilinogen	3	—	—	—	—	3
	Urea estimation	8	—	—	—	—	12
	Bile Salts	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Calcium	12	—	—	—	—	12
	Chlorides	1	2	1	—	—	3
	Direct examination for Acid and Alcohol Fast Bacillus	—	11	1	—	—	12
	Lead	96	1	—	—	—	1
	Creatinine Estimation	3	—	—	—	—	96
	17 Ketosteroids	3	—	—	—	—	3
	Chemical (Chloride)	39	—	—	—	—</	

developed symptoms and the causative organism was isolated from the faeces of six cases. The organism was a Salmonella of the Serological Group 'B,' which was shown not to be Paratyphoid 'B' or S. Typhi-Murium, but further typing was impossible because specific sera were not available. The outbreak was quickly controlled and no further cases or carriers were discovered.

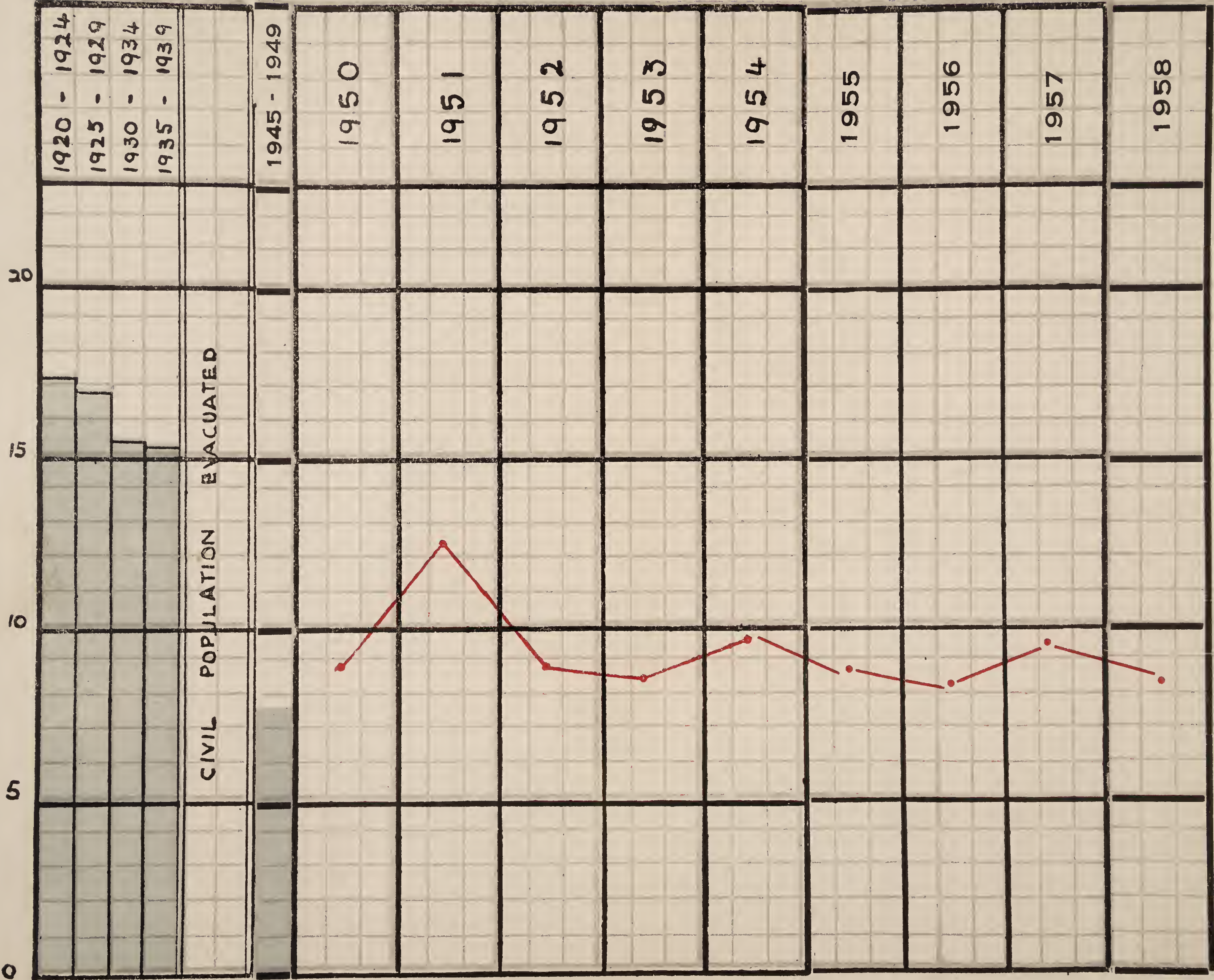
A considerable number of specimens of foods and milk were analyzed during the year and were found to be genuine. Samples of ice-creams were regularly submitted to the Methylene Blue Test for bacteriological grading as recommended by the Medical Research Council and potable water from all sources was tested for bacteriological purity at very short intervals.

E. A. IMOSI,
City Pathologist-Analyst,
Gibraltar.

COMPARATIVE CHART OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 CIVIL POPULATION
FOR THE PERIODS 1930-1939 & 1945-1958



DEATH RATE PER 1,000 CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1958



AVERAGES

1920-1924 == 17.18

1930-1934 == 15.49

1945-1949 == 7.92

1925-1929 == 16.96

1935-1939 == 15.35

1950-1954 == 9.44

1920-1929 == 17.07

1930-1939 == 15.42

1945-1954 == 8.68

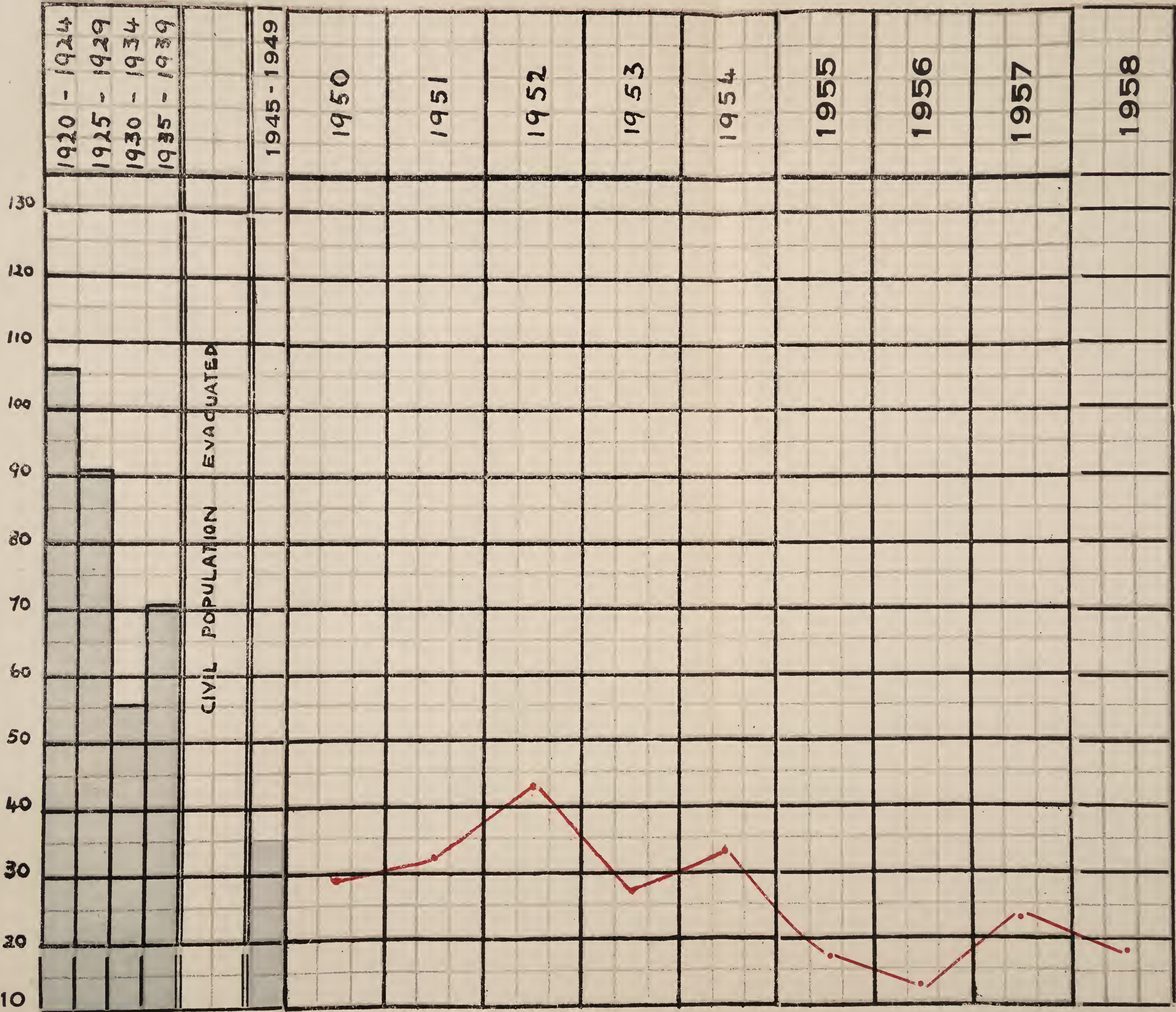
1955 == 8.66

1956 == 8.27

1957 == 9.75

1958 == 8.14

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1958



AVERAGES

1920-1924 = 106.9

1930-1934 = 57.4

1945-1949 = 36.0

1925-1929 = 91.7

1935-1939 = 70.3

1950-1954 = 31.9

1920-1929 = 99.3

1930-1939 = 63.4

1945-1954 = 33.9

1955 = 18.76

1956 = 13.05

1957 = 24.39

1958 = 18.27

